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THE WESTMINSTER PLAY.

PRINCE BISMARCK'S LATE DESPATCH.

"Misery," the proverb tells us, "makes us acquainted with strange bedfellows." There is a wider truth in these words than at first sight they suggest to the mind. There is a certain degree in the scale of suffering in this world below which neither individuals nor nations can be forced without greatly impairing their self-respect. Conscience cannot do its work without an approximation, at least, to freedom of action. When men are wholly at the disposal of others—as in the case, for example, of slavery—their code of morality is very apt to correspond with the depressed external circumstances in which they are placed. So it is that France, under the heel of a victor, welcomes sentiments which reflect the hue of her conscious humiliation. It was not difficult to foresee the probability that such would be the case, and hence it was not unnatural that Europe should have disapproved of the policy of Prince Bismarck in imposing upon the French people conditions of peace too hard to be borne without exciting and keeping alive a fierce spirit of revenge. When such a spirit gets thorough possession of a nation it is hard to predict the depth of demoralisation to which popular passion will not sink. The casuistry of human nature when pressed upon beyond its powers of endurance by overbearing strength often accepts the most startling conclusions—conclusions, it is true, which are far more easily accounted for than justified. It behoves us to look upon recent occurrences in France in the light of these general considerations. Certainly, she brought her terrible chastisement upon herself; but it is no less certain that the penalties exacted from her by the victorious Power have been, and are, so crushing as to paralyse the use of her reason, and to destroy in her, in regard to her relations to her foe, all that sensitiveness of the public conscience which is requisite to fulfil some of the primary duties of civilisation.

Since the suppression of the Commune in France, public feeling has taken the direction of prospective revenge on Germany. Rulers and people alike have deemed it befitting their obligation to their country to guide the policy of the State, as far as possible, with an ultimate view to enable them to deal back to Germany the severities inflicted by Germany upon themselves. This pervading atmosphere of vindictive sentiment has naturally enough quickened, in the more depraved minds of the community, purposes the character of which cannot but shock the moral sense of civilised mankind. Amongst a certain class of Frenchmen there grew up the notion that between themselves and their victors all the ordinary terms of right and humane feeling should be considered as effaced. To lie in wait for a German soldier in any of the occupied provinces, and from the most convenient place of concealment to shoot him down, as beasts of prey are shot down in the jungle, came to be regarded by many who had strong passions and but feeble reason, as an act of patriotism capable of being performed without any great risk of personal safety, and calculated to do some service, or at any rate to give some pleasure, to unhappy France. Of this class—not a very numerous one, we imagine—two persons were accused of carrying their doctrine of "killing no murder" into practice. They fled from the consequences of their alleged crime to parts of France no longer occupied by a German army. The French Government declined an application by the German Government to surrender the accused into the hands of their accusers, on the ground that, if found guilty of the offence with which they were charged, ample justice would be administered to them by a French Court. Accordingly, they were brought to trial, and were acquitted. The acquittal, however, was not based upon the evidence which concerned the facts of the case or the guilt of the men, but upon speculative and casuistical doctrines as to their culpability as Frenchmen. Counsel, jury, and Judge seemed to regard them as absolved from criminality by their patriotic motives. In other words, the upshot of the trial amounted to this, that the taking of life from a German bearing arms in France, in accordance with the conditions of the Treaty of Peace, could not fairly be adjudged as tantamount to murder. French society, so far from being shocked by this verdict, approved it, and the Paris press but faintly condemned where it did not openly applaud it.

Prince Bismarck's despatch relates to this occurrence. He expressly exonerates the French Government from having taken any part or used any influence to procure this verdict; but he intimates in the most unmistakable terms and tone that Germany will not hereafter submit to be baffled in her search for justice by the application of a doctrine founded in sentiments repudiated by all civilised nations. Since the French Courts and the French people have so far yielded to exasperated passions as to shield from punishment men guilty of assassination simply because their victims were German soldiers, he declares that Germany in self-defence will seek a remedy against these misdeeds in future by seizing French hostages, and, if necessary, by more stringent measures. There are still, he suggests, negotiations pending between France and Germany bearing upon the relations of the one country to the other; it may become necessary, he adds, in the course of those negotiations, "to take into consideration not only the security that the peace conditions will be fulfilled, but also the defensive strength of our position within the departments occupied by us." The determined tone of this despatch, clearly discernible through its official courtesy and reticence, and its immediate publication by Prince Bismarck himself, have excited in

France, as might have been anticipated, a profound sensation. This new assertion by Germany of her predominant power has stung the French people to the quick. As is too common, however, France concentrates her attention upon her own humiliation, and pays but little heed to that which has been the cause of it. She regards herself as ostentatiously and cruelly wounded in her national sense of self-respect; but, in place of finding the motives which dictated the protest and threats of Germany in the events which gave rise to them, she attributes to the German Minister almost every conceivable sinister design. We need not enumerate or examine the different suggestions by which the journalists in Paris attempt to account for the character of Prince Bismarck's despatches. We think we shall do our neighbours a greater kindness by passing them over in silence. Many of them are too ingenious to be probable; some of them are too self-contradictory to stand the test of rational investigation. The most obvious interpretation of what the Prince has written appears to us to be most consistent with truth. The state of feeling which he has so sternly rebuked, and against the ill consequences of which he threatens to provide, could hardly have been permitted to operate continuously without some such indignant remonstrance. Certainly, he has not "done his spiriting gently;" but we cannot but think that the occurrences with which he had to deal fully explain, if they do not wholly justify, the manner in which he has dealt with them. Our greatest fear is that in this, as in other instances, the resolution of the Prince to compel France to pay for her offences "to the uttermost farthing," will carry with it the seeds of future conflict, the quickening of which, perhaps at no very remote date, will be followed by a harvest of carnage, blood, and crime.

THE WESTMINSTER PLAY.

There are not a few to whom the pleasures of memory come at the bare mention of the play called "The Andrian." It may be many years since they saw it acted and heard its Latin pronounced in a way to make an old Roman turn in his grave; but all the circumstances are easily recalled to their minds. Yonder is a street of Athens, with the Acropolis in the background, standing not where the maps place it but at one end of the old dormitory of Westminster School. The room is by no means brilliantly lighted, but sufficiently to reveal its decorations, amongst which the most conspicuous are incisions—or, rather, excisions—in the form of such letters of the alphabet as represent the full names or initials of various "captains" or other more or less distinguished scholars. Close to the stage sit "old boys," who know from experience where a "hand" is expected, and do not fail to satisfy expectation. Over the area are scattered visitors great and small, mostly friends and relatives of the scholars; and in a gallery, at the further extremity of the room and opposite to the stage, are perched the "gods," above whom are the rank and file of the school, trained to fire volleys of vigorous rather than intelligent applause at a signal made by the wielder of the mystic cane. Haply a few ancient musicians, by way of communicating an additional air of antiquity, play on time-worn instruments the tune which was fatal to the old cow. Presently the deadly music is stilled; the play commences; the youthful actors become senile and epicene with marvellous facility; and not motley but the *pallium* "is your only wear." So memory recalls the characteristics of a certain evening; and *ex uno disce omnes*.

This year "The Andrian" was invested with a charm not intrinsically its own; for the performance was as good as a guarantee for the convalescence of an illustrious patient. It is no wonder, then, if there were more than usual interest displayed amongst the audience, to many of whom there may have seemed to be a sound of good omen in the hackneyed sentence commencing with "Omnes omnia bona dicere." The young gentleman, by-the-way, who is alluded to in the fore-said sentence as being "endowed with such a disposition" (to quote the Latin Grammar from which many of us suffered in our boyhood), is the hero of the story told in "The Andrian." He is supposed to be such a paragon that he is very much desired as husband for a young lady of Athens by the young lady's own father. The paragon, however, happens to have already contracted what would have been a marriage, if the ceremony had not been unfortunately omitted, with a young woman, the Andrian. She is so called because she came from Andros, whence she set out for Athens with a person who, it is to be feared, was no better than she should have been, and would nowadays be undoubtedly dubbed Anonyma. The Andrian, nevertheless, though she lives with the person who would now be dubbed Anonyma, is herself a she-paragon, and quite faithful to her first and only love, the he-paragon. On the very day when the he-paragon is, by force of parental authority, to be married to the young lady of his aversion, the Andrian, regardless of her unmarried condition, becomes the mother of a very fine boy. Some short-sighted persons would here see "a pretty kettle of fish;" but mark what really happens. The he-paragon's object is to have the hateful marriage rendered impossible. Let the child, then, according to a faithful rascal of a slave's device, be exposed (as in the Illustration) before the door of the he-paragon's father's house; the he-paragon will certainly acknowledge it; its mother may be rumoured to be really an Athenian not an Andrian at all; and, as in that case the he-paragon would be bound by the laws of Athens to marry her, the detested nuptials will be at least delayed. So then we have the child exposed at the he-paragon's father's door by the slave (R. W. S. Vidal) and the Andrian's maid-servant (W. Heath), to whom enter the father (A. E. Northcote) of the proposed bride. Hereupon the wily slave, pretending not to have had any hand in the matter, causes a very amusing scene by the mystification in which he involves the maid-servant, and by the manner in which he makes her declare who is the child's father, and mentions, in the hearing and to the horror of the proposed bride's father, whom he has hitherto appeared not to see, a rumour to the effect that the child's mother is really an Athenian. And, in the end, the Andrian turns out to be not only an Athenian, but the long-lost daughter—supposed to have died in childhood—of the proposed bride's father himself. So the he-paragon and the she-paragon are made man and wife; and the rejected maiden, the Andrian's father's other daughter, is not left unconsoled, for there was a young gentleman who had been all the while as anxious to win her as the he-paragon to be rid of her.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

In Tuesday's sitting of the National Assembly the proposal for the establishment of an income tax came on for discussion. M. Thiers delivered a long speech, warmly opposing such a tax, and treated the question from a financial, political, and social point of view. He dwelt upon the insuperable difficulties attending its application in France, and pointed out the resistance it encounters in England, and the proposal of President Grant to abolish it in America. He said that the tax would upset the whole fiscal system in France, would clash with the existing imposts, would meet with material difficulty in the collection, and would give rise to an unjust and arbitrary assessment. M. Thiers entered into details, showing that the incomes in France were already taxed in one form or another; he devoted a considerable portion of his speech to the circumstances of the introduction of the income tax in England, and contested the applicability of the English system to France, the economic conditions of the two countries being entirely different; and, besides, even England derived a far greater part of her revenue from customs and indirect taxes. M. Thiers defended the system of taxation in France as the most perfect and equitable existing, and quoted figures to prove that the working classes in England were far more heavily taxed than in France. Alluding to the question of free trade, M. Thiers admitted his Protectionist leanings, but said that if he were an Englishman he would be a freetrader, as free trade had made England's fortune. In conclusion, M. Thiers dwelt on the abuses of arbitrary assessment, which was worse even than feudal toll, which the income tax would introduce. He drew a sombre picture of the perturbation increased by party division which the establishment of an income tax might cause. He earnestly appealed to the Assembly to support the views of the Government, and called on the members to unite themselves to him in order to enlighten the people; and said that the Assembly, which was making a loyal trial of the Republic, could not commit an injustice.

In Wednesday's sitting the discussion on the income tax was continued. M. Poyer-Quertier, the Minister of Finance, delivered a speech against the tax, reproducing in effect the arguments of M. Thiers. He based his opposition principally upon the vexatious, inquisitorial, and arbitrary character of the tax, and cited Lord Brougham's opposition to it in England, and President Grant's Message relative to free trade. M. Poyer-Quertier stated that England only adopted free trade where she feared no competition, but was Protectionist in all cases where her own manufactures were threatened. M. Flotard said the majority of the commercial community did not accept the arguments and statements of the Minister of Finance, but favoured, on the contrary, the income tax as against an increase of the customs duties. M. Langlois defended the tax, maintaining that the Protectionist policy of the Government would ruin French trade, in the extension of which lay the only means of enabling the country to pay the war indemnity. The Assembly rejected by a large majority the proposal of M. Wolowski for a general income tax, only the Extreme Left voting for it.

A report has been drawn up by the Minister of the Interior, and approved by M. Thiers, which defines the position the French Government proposes to adopt towards the press. It is intended that official corrections of false news shall be sent to the papers publishing such news; but the Government at the same time reserves to itself the right of taking legal proceedings should it deem them necessary. This project, particulars of which have been published, by anticipation, in the *Temps*, is warmly approved by the *Débats*.

Preparations for the New Year celebrations are being made in Paris. The President and the Ministers, on Sunday, at eleven o'clock, will pay their first visit to the President of the Assembly, who, with the officials of the Chamber, will return it at midday. On Monday will be held the reception of the Corps Diplomatique, and subsequently of the heads of the Government departments and those who voluntarily join them. But no official body will be expected to appear en masse. There will be no official speech.

Count Orloff, the new Russian Ambassador, has arrived in Paris.

The members of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences held their annual meeting at the Institute, Paris, last Saturday. M. Jules Simon, who filled the chair, delivered an address, after which the following prizes were awarded:—The Victor Cousin (3000f.), to M. Chaignet, Professor of Ancient Literature at the Faculty of Poitiers, for a memoir "On the Pythagorean Philosophy;" the Léon Faucher (3000f.), to M. Leroy Beaulieu, advocate, for a paper "On the Colonial System of Modern Nations;" one of 1500f. to the same gentleman for a description of the organisation of the local administration by counties, cities, boroughs, and parishes in England, and by departments and communes in France; another of 2500f. to M. Picot, Judge at the Civil Tribunal of the Seine, for an essay on the States-General of France; another of a similar amount to M. Legrand, advocate, of Valenciennes, for a work "On Marriage, considered from a moral, religious, legal, and social point of view."

M. Levasseur has been appointed to the newly-created chair of History and the Economical Sciences at the Collège de France.

ITALY.

The Senate has passed the Budget of Public Instruction as well as those of the Interior and Public Works. The Committee of the Chamber of Deputies has approved the estimates for the armament and the defence of the State according to the Ministerial propositions. The Chamber has passed the Budget of Public Works for 1872.

The Pope has appointed twenty-eight new Bishops, of whom nineteen are Italians and three French.

SPAIN.

A large number of troops are being dispatched by the Government to aid in the suppression of the revolt in Cuba. On Wednesday a battalion of chasseurs left Madrid to embark for the colony. The King met them at the railway station and addressed them in an ardent speech. A large crowd which had assembled cheered his Majesty most enthusiastically.

SWITZERLAND.

The National Council, after approving one more provision concerning the Federal authority—namely, in connection with the fishery laws—has adjourned until Jan. 15.

HOLLAND.

A Royal decree has been published accepting the resignation of M. Engelvart, the Minister of War, and intrusting to M. Brox, the Minister of Marine, the functions ad interim of the War Ministry.

The five Dutch Roman Catholic Bishops have presented an address to the King praying him to maintain a Dutch diplomatic representative at the Court of the Holy See.

The Lower Chamber, by 40 against 25 votes, has passed the bill for the redemption of 10,000,000 fl. of the national debt.

The majority of the committees of the First Chamber are favourable to the cession of Dutch Guinea to England.

GERMANY.

In a despatch addressed to the German Ambassador in Paris Prince Bismarck states that if, in future, the French authorities refuse to give up the murderers of German soldiers in France French hostages will be seized, or perhaps even more severe measures be adopted.

The Emperor has subscribed 1000 thalers to the monument which is about to be erected in Hanover to the memory of the composer Marschner.

Dr. Döllinger, as Rector of the University of Munich, has delivered a speech, in which he said that the decrees of Rome were directed only against German science, and had been prepared by a systematic falsification of the theological textbooks. Rome had formerly carried on war against the natural sciences, and had succumbed; now she was opposing historical science. As Germany had formerly brought about the separation of the Churches, she must now labour in a pacific spirit to accomplish their reconciliation.

RUSSIA.

An Imperial decree, issued at St. Petersburg on Tuesday, fixes the levy of recruits for the year 1872 at the rate of six per 1000 for the whole empire, including the kingdom of Poland.

It is announced from St. Petersburg that, on and after Jan. 1 next, the Russian language will have to be taught in all schools throughout Poland.

AUSTRO-HUNGARY.

The two Houses of the Austrian Reichsrath met, on Wednesday, at Vienna. In their addresses both Presidents urged the necessity of adhering to the Constitution.

A brief mention of the Budget discloses the fact that there will be, not a surplus, but a deficit of more than fifty million florins.

The Speech from the Throne was delivered on Thursday. His Majesty, after greeting the representatives of both Houses, pointed out that his readiness to grant such extreme concessions as would be compatible with the unity of the State has not succeeded in effecting the desired internal harmony. The Speech concludes by expressing the expectation that the work of the unification of the peoples of Austria may successfully become achieved on national bases, and in accordance with the spirit of the age.

AMERICA.

The United States House of Representatives has passed, and sent to the Senate for its approval, a bill rearranging the representation of the various States in accordance with the recent Census returns. The total number of members in the House at present is 243, and the bill proposes an increase of 40, the proportion of representatives being estimated as one for every 133,000 of the population. The Western States gain considerably by the new apportionment; and the *New York Times* looks forward to an early triumph of those principles of reform and progress with which the great States of the West are identified.

The motion for the impeachment of the Governor of South Carolina has been defeated in the South Carolina Legislature by a large majority.

The *Chicago Tribune* publishes a detailed statement of the losses caused by the great fire. There were about 250 persons killed, and 98,500 were rendered homeless. The pecuniary loss is given at 290 millions of dollars, 100 millions of which were supposed to be covered by insurance, but the companies have only been able to pay 30 millions. The citizens of Chicago are vigorously repairing damages.

CANADA.

The Grand Duke Alexis arrived at Toronto, on Wednesday week, from Ottawa. He was presented with an address from the Corporation on Thursday, and a grand reception was held at the Government House in the evening. The Grand Duke left on Friday for the United States, by way of Niagara.

The Ministerial crisis has terminated, and what is described as "a strong Liberal Administration" has been formed under Mr. Edward Blake, the late Opposition leader. A "vigorous and energetic immigration policy" is predicted.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

A proclamation annexing the diamond-fields has been received at the diggings without any demonstration of feeling, but the diggers are strongly favourable to the policy of the Governor. President Brand, of the Free State, has issued a proclamation protesting against annexation to a colony of disputed territory, and calling upon the inhabitants of the State to avoid collision with British officials. Finds of diamonds continue large. The stones are sold in large numbers by auction in Cape Town almost daily.

THE OVERLAND MAIL.

The overland mail has brought news from Bombay to Dec. 2, from Hong-Kong to Nov. 15, and from Melbourne to Nov. 7.

The Indian papers state that there had been an outbreak of cholera at Delhi, which, it was feared, might interfere with the arrangements for the camp of exercise. Up to Nov. 30 eighteen cases had proved fatal. Most of the troops for the camp had reached the neighbourhood of Delhi. His Highness Maharajah Scindia intended to be present at the camp. Sir Jung Bahadur was received by the Viceroy in grand Durbar at Sonapore on Nov. 25. A destructive fire is reported from Calcutta. Mr. Eglinton, "the hero of Monierkhall," had been rewarded by the Supreme Government with a grant of a thousand acres of land in Cachar, rent free, for his gallantry during the late Lushai disturbances. The Vellaur Bridge, between Chillumbrum and Cuddalore, in South Arcot, had been washed away by floods. The bridge took three years to build, and, when destroyed, had been open to the public twenty days. The native papers all deplore the illness of the Prince of Wales, and pray to the Almighty to restore him to health.

From China the news chiefly relates to the recent disastrous floods in the north, which threaten about 2,000,000 people with starvation. "Very inadequate means," it is stated, "are taken by the Mandarins to alleviate the distress and save life. No steps have yet been taken to stop the gaps in the river banks, except praying to snakes and other superstitious acts. The Governor-General (Le-Hung-Chang) is looking after himself and family."

In Japan some interest is felt concerning the revision next year of the treaties between that country and foreign nations, and many concessions are expected, in view of the progressive spirit generally exhibited by the Government. It is asserted that Buddhism has been abolished as the national religion, and that the monasteries have been confiscated. The Japanese Governor of Kanagawa has been elected a member of the Foreign Club.

The principal items of Australian news given by the *Melbourne Argus* in its overland summary are as follow:—The resolutions adopted by the Intercolonial Conference have been ratified by the Legislative Assembly. During the month there has been great excitement in mining, particularly on Sandhurst. The market has been flooded with new mining companies. The iron clipper-ship *Loch Leven* was wrecked

on King's Island, when on her way home from this port, on Monday, Oct. 23. Captain Branscombe was drowned; the other officers and the crew were saved. A new exploring expedition is about to start from South Australia, for the purpose of exploring the country between Stuart's track and Perth.

The Marquis of Normanby, the new Governor of Queensland, has completed his inspection of the northern districts of the colony. It is stated that at Mackay, one of the best sugar-growing districts, his Excellency saw a good deal of the Polynesians. In the course of a speech to those who entertained him there the Marquis said:—"I have been told that the means by which Polynesians were obtained were not legitimate; but I have failed to perceive this, in so far, at least, as Queensland is concerned; and, if one can judge by the countenances and manners of the Polynesians, they experience no regret at their position." But his Excellency pointed out the advantage of giving them religious instruction. The first election petition tried in New Zealand has resulted in the unseating of Sir David Munro, many years Speaker of the Assembly. He represented Morruka, in the province of Nelson, having been elected by the casting vote of the returning officer; but his return was petitioned against on the grounds of personation and bribery. The charge of bribery was not proved, but personation was established. So high, however, is Sir David Munro's character that the Assembly have adopted an address to the Queen, praying that he may be called to the Upper House as a recognition of his past services.

The murder of Bishop Patteson, which is attributed to the kidnapping of the South Sea Islanders, has been followed by more murders of whites.

The scientific expedition under Professor Agassiz, having been delayed, will now sail at once for the Strait of Magellan and the Falkland Isles. The Professor will be accompanied by his wife and well-known savants.

We have news by the River Plate mail of the destruction by earthquakes of Oran, the second city in the province of Salta. The shocks are said to have lasted about nine hours. Happily, very little life was lost, as the inhabitants had time to flee to the open country.

The Persian Minister in London publishes a telegram which he has received from the Grand Vizier in reference to the famine. The Vizier states that he has organised relief committees in the districts where distress exists, and that large sums are disbursed by the State in aid of the sufferers.

Among the legacies left by the Duke de Girgenti are—the sword he wore at Alcolea, to Queen Isabella; his walking-stick to Don Francisco d'Assise; 60,000*l.* to his secretary, Besta; and a like sum to his aide-de-camp, Baesa. He appoints the Archduke Albert his executor, subject to the consent of his own nearest relatives.

The arrangement under which only the British inland and sea rates and the United States transit rate are required to be prepaid on letters posted in the United Kingdom, addressed to the Hawaiian Islands, and the Hawaiian postage is collected on the delivery of the letters, will be terminated on Jan. 1 next; and thenceforward the whole postage, British, United States, and Hawaiian—viz., sixpence per half-ounce—must be paid in advance on all such letters.

The Board of Trade has awarded a binocular glass to Captain John Gales, master of the American schooner *Delmont*, of Portland, in acknowledgment of his humanity and kindness to the three survivors of the crew of the ship *Nonpareil*, of Newcastle. The *Nonpareil* left Bombay in July last, bound for New York, and on Oct. 11 encountered a heavy gale, during which she foundered. Three of her crew succeeded in clinging to the top of the deck of the fore-cabin, from which, after seven days and nights, they were rescued by the *Delmont*, and landed at Martinique on Nov. 1. Captain Gales refused to accept any payment for the subsistence of the rescued men whilst on board his vessel.

CHRISTMAS EVE, PARIS, 1870.

It is hard to believe, when we are reading of the gay preparations in Paris for the *Jour de l'An*, that only twelve months back the French capital was besieged. A hand which then did good work in the trenches has drawn for us a souvenir of a Parisian Christmas Eve last year. Félix Regamey's characteristic illustration of *Reveillon* will be best accompanied by an extract from the diary kept by him during the siege of Paris:—

"Dec. 24, 1870.

"We fought on the 21st; since that day the cold has been intense. The army has gone into winter quarters; and covered lodgings, regular rations, with the reduction in the hours of duty suffice to make us forget our recent misfortunes and sufferings. Warmth and gaiety return, and we shall be able to have a *Reveillon* to-night. New comers from Paris, who give us the details and the result of the last battle (of which we had only seen one corner—our own), are in possession of divers bottles and viands which they are willing to sacrifice on the altar of *la patrie*. This contribution forms the basis of the feast, and everyone is enjoined to add thereto as much as he can. The traditional tree—a poor palm, frozen and cracking in the bark—has been brought from the ravaged hothouses of the country mansion we occupy. The next necessity was that of finding furniture, &c. The vicinity was scoured right and left; none came back with empty hands. Here is the list of the curiosities gathered in the expedition:—A Prussian helmet, of the well-known form, picked up during the last battle; an emaciated cat, welcome as manna in the desert; a delicately-complexioned wax doll, whose vocabulary was limited to 'Papa' and 'Mamma,' which had been found in the study of a young ladies' academy actually occupied by the Zouaves, our companions of the plateau de Villiers; a cardboard full of rare butterflies, saved from a naturalist's collection, which had been destroyed by a shell; a stuffed bird, gained from the same source; and, finally, the *Plan Trochu*, a *pièce de résistance*, written by the poet of the detachment, a journalist severed from pens and ink, and appointed to the office of cook, while the rest were foraging. The candles are lit, and blankets fastened to the windows to prevent the enemy aiming at the light; the punch is ready; one or two precious bottles of champagne seem expectant in their silver collars; the Commandant has made his round without appearing at all displeased at the harangue of our cantinière—*Monsieur, c'est servi; Vive la France!*"

The annual festival of the friends of the Commercial Travellers' Schools took place, on Wednesday evening, at the London Tavern. The Lord Mayor occupied the chair, supported by Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Truscott and Mr. Sheriff Bennett; Mr. George Moore, treasurer; Sir Travers Twiss; Mr. Figgins, M.P.; and a number of the leading commercial men of the city of London, to the number of 170. The subscriptions and donations amounted to £1415.

HOLIDAY SIGHTS: THE TOWER.

During the Christmas holidays there is an influx into London of visitors from the country, drawn hither by the attractions of pantomime and burlesque. These visitors generally make good use of their time, and during their short stay of a week or so contrive to see more of the metropolis than many a Londoner has seen in a lifetime. Indeed, the little knowledge which the inhabitants have of the metropolitan lions has been mostly gathered from a courteous attendance on country cousins. This holds good, however, only of those born and bred within the sound of Bow bells, a small part of the population of this great city. Many, if not most, of the persons making up the London population have at some time migrated from the country, and at their first coming a north and south; but this feverish desire was soon sated, and they settled into stay-at-homes, unless when compelled, by the arrival of some relation or friend from the country, to take for the nonce the part of a London guide. The East-End competes with the West-End in its attractions for the visitor. It is true that it has lost the Tunnel, as one of the lions for sightseers, who hurried through it with trembling as they thought of the mighty mass of waters overhead, bearing the argosies of the world; for enterprise has utilised it into a railway communication between north and south of the Thames. But there are still the Docks, with their thousand acres of cobwebbed wine-vaults. Here visitors enter like conspirators—so many Guy Fawkeses—each armed with a lamp at the end of a stick, which the bearer thrusts before him into the thick darkness. Faint points of light at the end of long avenues in the far distance, stars of the sixth magnitude, twinkle in this nether vault; and wandering lights, proceeding from the lamps of other parties, dance about like so many will-o'-the-wisps. The demure quietness which generally marks the visitors on first entering these huge, many-passaged vaults is after a while broken by talk and peals of laughter, increasing in vehemence; for some of the many million genii imprisoned in these countless rows of barrels have slipped out of vent-holes and taken possession of the visitors' brains.

The Tower is, however, the great attraction to country cousins. Who can forget the time when, somewhat awestruck, he entered this ancient Royal palace, fortress, and prison; and, in company with a dozen other dummies, was introduced to the mysteries by a majestic major-domo? How the different portions of the building rise before one! First, the Lions' Gate, near which the lions were formerly kept, one of the attractions of the Tower—hence the phrase, "to see the lions;" then the Traitors' Gate, with its gloomy historical associations; the Bell Tower, in which Princess Elizabeth was imprisoned by her sister, Queen Mary; the Bloody Tower, so called from the tradition that here the young sons of Edward IV. were smothered, by order of Richard III.; the Brick Tower, sacred with associations of Lady Jane Grey, who, report says, was here imprisoned; the Brick Tower containing the dungeon in which it is stated the Duke of Clarence was put to death in a butt of malmsey; the White Tower, where John, King of France, was lodged; and many other portions, all rejoicing in their several traditions. But the most interesting, as well as the most ancient, part of the fortress is the Keep, usually called the White Tower. The contents, too, are full of interest. Mounted figures in armour, by which the visitor may note the difference between plate, chain, ribbed, fluted, splinted, and damasked armour; firearms, exhibiting clear proof that the revolver is no modern invention; and tastefully-arranged trophies and emblematic devices, composed of weapons, on the walls and ceilings. But, ah! what have we here? Ancient instruments of torture and punishment—an iron collar of torture taken from the Spaniards in 1588, the "cravat," thumb-screws, and other dainty devices, by which contumacious prisoners were made pliable, and truth or falsehood (most frequently the latter) was wrung from racked victims. Our major-domo, relaxing from his indifference, and becoming a "philosopher and friend" as well as a "guide," shows the use, up to a certain point, of the thumb-screw to a fair girl of the party—papa the while improving the occasion, and telling Miss Rosebud how thankful she ought to be that she was not born in the dark ages, when she might have been racked, and (who knows?) perhaps burnt at the stake for truth's sake. The young lady does not seem alive to the privilege of living in the nineteenth century, and looks upon the thumb-screw as a toy, though victims as graceful and innocent as she have writhed and groaned and fallen into a dead faintness under its use. Well, let us be grateful, as we ought, that such deeds (done seemingly, and sometimes really, by mistaken zeal in the cause of truth) are not done in our days; and let us leave these ghastly memorials of cruelty, with the surrounding beheading axes and blocks, and the dungeons, the walls of which are thick with the autographs of their victims; and, before we leave the Tower, take a glance at a more pleasant spectacle, the Jewel House, which we had nearly forgotten. Here crowns and sceptres and orbs, swords of justice, coronation bracelets, baptismal fonts, and various articles of the Royal Regalia, thickly studded with diamonds, sapphires, emeralds, rubies, and other precious stones, flash on the dazzled eyes of the visitor.

Professor Jowett has delivered two lectures on the "Life and Writings of Samuel Johnson" at the Philosophical Institution, Edinburgh.

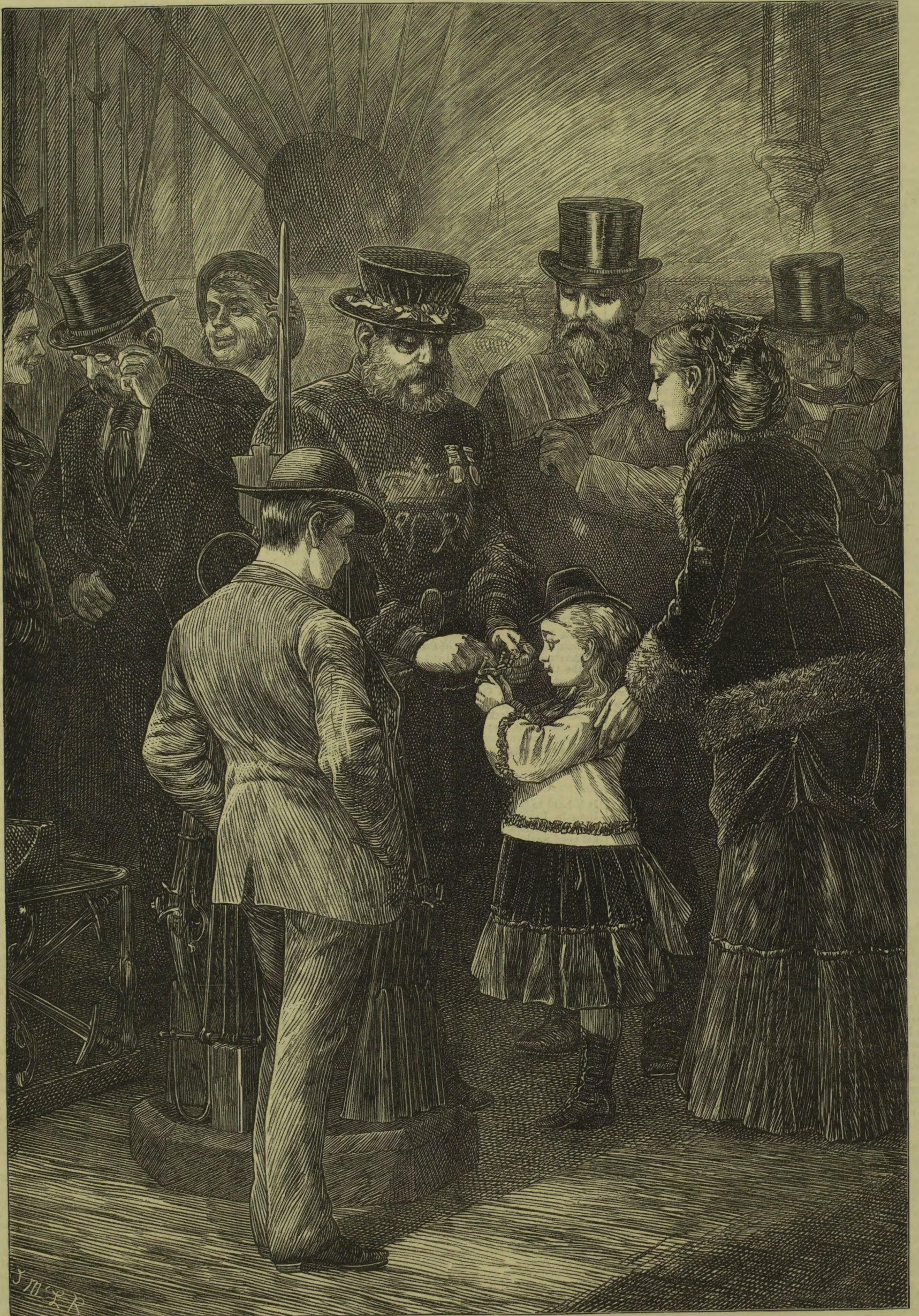
Baroness Willoughby d'Eresby has subscribed £500 towards defraying the cost of procuring a supply of water to the burgh of Callander.

Mr. Tollemache, one of the Conservative members for West Cheshire, has issued an address stating his intention to retire from the representation of that constituency. The hon. gentleman, who is sixty-six years of age, has sat for the division since 1841.

The death is announced of Major-General William Thomas Blewett Mountstevens, late of the 79th Highlanders, at the age of seventy-five. He served in the 28th Regiment (the North Gloucestershire) at the Battle of Waterloo, where he was severely wounded. He received the Waterloo medal.

On Wednesday evening the series of sermons addressed directly to young men engaged in the City, preached by Canon Liddon, under the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, was brought to a close. The subject of the lecture, as announced, was the social and political future of Christianity. The congregation, which consisted exclusively of men, was numerous.

The engineers' strike in Edinburgh came to a close, last Saturday, by the workmen agreeing to accept a proposal that the fifty-one hours as a week's work should commence on Feb. 1.—Yesterday week a meeting of the coalowners of South Yorkshire was held at the King's Head Hotel, Barnsley—Mr. Stewart, of Lund-hill, in the chair. Mr. Normansell and Mr. Casey attended, at the request of the colliery proprietors, with regard to an advance of 5 per cent demanded by the men. After some discussion, the advance was conceded. The increase of wages will extend to upwards of 14,000 persons.



HOLIDAY SIGHTS: THE TORTURE IN HER MAJESTY'S TOWER.



CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE OUTPOSTS, PARIS, 1870.

The Ecclesiastical Titles Act has been repealed, and its author, Earl Russell, supported the repeal. The great struggle, or succession of struggles, on the Ballot Bill, and the Ministerial recourse to silence on the Liberal side, except that Mr. Forster occasionally took all the points of his enemies in his target, the mutilation of this bill, and its rejection by the House of Lords, occupied us in the hot weather. We may note that there was a trifling opposition to the grant to Prince Arthur, but its enemies num-

bered only thirteen. The Session was ended, by Commission, on Aug. 21.

Mr. Gladstone's release of the Fenian convicts; the School Board elections, for the most part satisfactory; the inauguration of the Revision of the Holy Bible; the taking of the Census; the appearance of the Queen at the opening of the Albert Hall; the birth and premature demise of the infant Prince, child of the Heir Apparent; the visit of the Emperor and Empress of Brazil; the Walter Scott Centenary; the casualties to the Agincourt and the Repulse, and the loss of the *Megara*; the Royal visit to Dublin, and the Fenian demonstration that followed it; the great strike in the north, and the victory of the workmen; the curious alliance between some peers and some artisans, and its collapse;—these are among the salient topics of the past year, and to them must be added several remarkable murders, the perpetrator of the most cruel being unconvicted; and, of course, there is the monster *cause célèbre*, the Tichborne case, which has lasted seventy days, and in which we are still awaiting the reply to the claimant.

The obituary of the year contains some names of high mark, but the number is not large. Sir John Burgoyne, Sir Roderick Murchison, Mr. Babbage, and Sir John Herschel are the most eminent persons of whom the year has bereft us. We have no extraordinary national disaster to lament—no Chicago has been laid in ashes for us—yet the year that witnessed the conflagration at Warwick Castle cannot be absolved from the charge of bringing us a misfortune.

We thus close a brief résumé of events since last Christmas. If we end with a single word of reference to the theme which has of late occupied all hearts and tongues, it is in a spirit of earnest thankfulness that we are happily exempt from the duty, which so recently seemed to menace us, of adding a record that the nation was mourning under the heaviest of blows. It has pleased Divine Providence to avert that stroke, and it is in grateful cheerfulness that England enters upon the New Year.

THE COURT.

The Queen held a Council, on Thursday week, at Windsor Castle, at which were present the Marquis of Ripon, the Duke of Argyll, Viscount Sydney, and the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone. Mr. Helps was Clerk of the Council. At the Council Parliament was further prorogued from Wednesday, the 27th inst., to Tuesday, Feb. 6. Previously to the Council Count Beust was introduced to her Majesty's presence by the Marquis of Ripon, in the absence of Earl Granville, and presented his credentials as Austro-Hungarian Ambassador. The Marquis of Ripon, the Duke of Argyll, Viscount Sydney, and the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone had audiences of the Queen.

Yesterday (Friday) week Prince Arthur, attended by Sir Howard Elphinstone, arrived at the castle.

On Saturday last the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne arrived at the castle. In consequence of the absence of the Queen from Windsor Castle on the 14th inst., the anniversary of the death of the lamented Prince Consort, her Majesty, with the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice, attended a special service at the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore, in commemoration of the sad event. The Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor officiated.

On Christmas Eve the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice attended Divine service in the private chapel of the castle. The Rev. Robinson Duckworth, M.A., officiated.

Christmas Day was passed at Windsor Castle by the Queen and the Royal family, for the first time since the death of the Prince Consort. The bells of St. George's Chapel and St. John's Church were rung. The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, Princess Beatrice, and Princess Victoria of Hesse attended Divine service in the private chapel of the castle. The Dean of Windsor officiated, and administered the sacrament of the holy communion. In the afternoon the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Arthur, and Prince Leopold attended Divine service in St. George's Chapel. The Duke sat beneath his own banner, in the stalls of the Knights of the Garter. Prince Arthur occupied the Prince Consort's stall, and Prince Leopold sat in the Royal closet. The Royal baron of beef, with the boar's head and game-pie, were, as usual, conspicuous in the Royal dining-room on Christmas Day.

The Royal Christmas party at Windsor Castle was broken up, on Tuesday, by the departure of the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Louise, and the Marquis of Lorne for London, and Prince Arthur for Dover. Sir Andrew Buchanan, who has been transferred from the St. Petersburg to the Vienna Embassy, had an audience of the Queen, as had also the Judge Advocate-General.

The visit which the Queen intended to have made last Saturday to the Prince and Princess of Wales at Sandringham was paid on Wednesday. Her Majesty was accompanied from Windsor by Prince Leopold and attended by the Hon. Lady Biddulph and Colonel Ponsonby, and at Wolferton station was met by General Sir William Knollys and Major Grey. Her Majesty at once proceeded to the carriage in waiting for her, and drove to Sandringham House. Princess Alice had left Sandringham the same afternoon.

The Countess of Gainsborough has succeeded Lady Waterpark as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

The Queen's Christmas bounties were distributed, as usual, on the 18th and 19th inst., to the poor from all parts of London, selected by the clergymen who co-operate with the Lord High Almoner. The distribution was made by Mr. Joseph Hanby, at the Royal Almonry, Scotland-yard.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales continues to make favourable progress towards convalescence, although Wednesday's bulletin was not quite so satisfactory as those we had been previously receiving. It stated that his Royal Highness had passed the night quietly, but that convalescence was retarded by a painful affection above the left hip, attended with some feverishness. It is stated from Lynn that this incident need not arouse anxiety or alarm. The affection described is of a local character, and such as is not uncommon after even a slight attack of enteric fever. The affection is above the hip-joint, and not at the joint, and is, therefore, of a superficial character. Its

existence satisfactorily explains the slight increase in feverishness, which might otherwise have caused anxiety. The visit of the Queen had been arranged beforehand, and is not due to any emergency. Thursday's bulletin was reassuring. It stated that the Prince had passed a good night, and that strength was slowly returning.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has written to the clergy, directing that the special prayers for his Royal Highness and the Royal family shall be withdrawn, and that "at the fitting time in the service the prayers of the congregation shall be desired for his Royal Highness's complete restoration to health."

On Saturday last the annual distribution of Christmas meat was made, at Sandringham, to the cottagers and dependents upon the Royal estate in Norfolk. The gifts were proportioned to the number of each family, amounting to 650 persons resident in Dersingham, Sandringham, West Newton, Wolferton, Bevingley, and Appleton. The Princess of Wales and Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse were present. The distribution was made by Mr. Beck, the Prince's agent, assisted by Mr. Carmichael, head gardener. Sir William Knollys, in a concise speech, said he was happy to tell those assembled that the Prince of Wales desired him to say that he deeply regretted being unable to attend in person to bestow these gifts, but was thankful to Almighty God to be able to send that message to them. Three cheers were given, after which the Princess took her departure.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day those members of the Royal family who were able attended Divine service at Sandringham church, which was decorated with flowers and evergreens, from designs by the Countess of Dunmore.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

Eighteen fires happened on Christmas Eve to Tuesday morning in the metropolitan district.

The secretary of the East London Hospital for Children and Dispensary for Women requests us to acknowledge the receipt of £1000 from H. G.

A meeting of artists was held, last week, at Duke-street, St. James's—Mr. Arthur à Beckett in the chair—for the purpose of forming a society for the protection of the works of artists at exhibitions.

There were 124,616 paupers in London last week, of whom 35,461 were in the workhouses, and 89,155 were receiving outdoor relief. Compared with the corresponding period of last year, this was a decrease of 20,459.

Yesterday week Major Roedantz, Military Attaché to the German Embassy, explained the Krieg's Spiel or War Game at the Royal United Service Institution. Major-General Napier, Director-General of Military Education, presided, and a crowded audience assembled.

On Christmas morning the "all-the-year-round" bathers in the Serpentine, to the number of about thirty, assembled to take part in a swimming-match for a silver cup, which annually comes off on Christmas Day, after which they gathered round a bucket of rum-and-milk, and drank to the health of the Queen and the Prince of Wales.

The extensive cattle market which has been formed on the site of Deptford Dockyard for the reception and slaughter of foreign animals on their arrival in this country, with a view to prevent the spread of contagion, was opened on Thursday morning. The Lord Mayor, with Mr. T. F. Bontems, the chairman, and other members of the Markets Committee, and a number of members of the Common Council, were present.

In Westminster Hall, yesterday week, Lord Truro, commandant of the West London Rifle Corps, presented the prizes to the winners in the annual shooting competition.—On Tuesday the members of No. 8 (Broadwood's) company of the Queen's (Westminster) met at the regimental ranges, Wormwood-scrubbs, for the purpose of competing for prizes given by Mr. Walter Broadwood. Private Parkinson won the first prize, value 5 gs.; Private J. Trail the second prize, value 3 gs.; and Private Price the third prize, value 2 gs. Private Dyke was the winner of a fourth prize made up of entrance fees.

In the metropolis last week 2164 births and 1943 deaths were registered, the former having been 62 below and the latter 370 above the average. Ninety persons died from smallpox, 102 from measles, 28 from scarlet fever, 3 from diphtheria, 117 from whooping-cough, 50 from different forms of fever (of which 6 were certified as typhus, 32 as enteric or typhoid, and 12 as simple continued fever), and 13 from diarrhoea. The fatal cases of measles and whooping-cough showed a further increase upon the numbers in recent weeks, while those of smallpox and scarlet fever had declined. Diseases of the respiratory organs, including phthisis, caused 734 deaths, against 926 in the previous week, 364 were referred to bronchitis, 117 to pneumonia, and 182 to phthisis; while in the previous week the numbers were 482, 139, and 224 respectively.

According to annual custom, the inmates of the various metropolitan workhouses were, on Christmas Day, supplied with roast beef, plum-pudding, beer, fruit, and other seasonable fare; the aged who indulge in such luxuries being in many instances supplied in addition with tobacco and snuff. There were 35,275 persons who ate their Christmas dinner within the walls of the London workhouses.—Amongst other institutions by which the poor are cared for at this festive season should be mentioned the Golden-lane Mission, where 350 men, women, and children were fed; and the Leicester-square Soup Kitchen, at which no fewer than seven hours were occupied on Saturday in supplying 800 families with presents suitable to the occasion. Upwards of 1000 children were entertained to dinner in the Hope Schools, Chequer-alley. The bill of fare comprised mutton, beef, potatoes, and plum-pudding; and one of the teachers, Mr. H. Smithett, jun., added an orange each.

"WAITING FOR THE SHOT."

To lovers of deer-stalking this picture will probably have a stronger sporting than artistic interest. It indicates the supreme moment of suspense in one of the most exciting kinds of field sport. The game is sighted, but at the slightest sign it may vanish, and no chance of overtaking the same herd would in all likelihood be presented for many weary miles. The stalkers must not betray their covert till the far-ranging rifle-bullet has a chance of striking. The shot fired, then the dogs may be let loose, but not one moment before. If a hit, they may yet have far to run before they bring the stag to bay or pull him down. While, however, recognising the special interest of this picture by Mr. James Hardy, jun., to the sportsman, we must not ignore its pictorial merit. It is a capital study of character. The cowering old gillie, with his grizzled hair, weather-worn face, and sharp, grey eye, seems to be almost of the same breed as the leash of shaggy deerhounds, with their sagacious alertness and their bright keen eyes; and the characteristics, both human and canine, are rendered with very skilful and descriptive handling.

"NOTHING IN THE PAPERS."

Everybody who just now writes about winter amusement naturally takes the social, musical, or theatrical view, according to his tastes. We read of the dance and the mistletoe, the concert, or the pantomime. By way of a change let me give, in our last gossip of the year, an old-world poke at worldly pleasures. Not in my own words, of course, but in those of a famous poet. He describes a country home, with the tea-table, and conversation of the serious kind. But, being a satiric poet, he must necessarily be aggressive, and so he turns from "themes of a graver tone" to let fly at the theatres, of one of which Garrick was then the ornament:—

Is Winter hideous in a garb like this?
Needs he the tragic fur, the glow of lamps,
The pent-up breath of an unsavoury throng,
To thaw him into feeling; or the smart
And snappish dialogue that dippant wits
Call comedy, to prompt him with a smile?
(The self-complacent actor, when he views
(Stealing a side-long glance at a full house)
The slope of faces, from the floor to the roof,
As if one master-spring controlled them all,
Relaxed into a universal grin,
Sees not a countenance there that speaks of joy!
Half so refined or so sincere as ours.

Very probably. But one thing is quite certain—namely, that the owner of the skilled hand that traced those graphic lines must have witnessed and enjoyed the scene he depreciates; and in other parts of Mr. William Cowper's writings it is made evident that he perfectly well knew good acting from bad, and could recognise the higher artists. However, he had resigned such pleasures; and the public is a gainer when a real poet, no matter by what motive inspired, turns satirist. We are at least sure that, in deriding the art of others, he is exhibiting his own at the best.

There is a favourite clap-trap, very dear to orators of the inferior class, and it is "You can't make men virtuous by Act of Parliament." The hackneyed phrase at once sharpens the pen of the journalist who has to comment on the speaker, and acts as a sort of letter of recommendation that no particular mercy shall be shown to his dulness. A variation of the words, however, may be pardonable. It was pertinaciously suggested to one on Tuesday, "You can't give people a holiday by Act of Parliament. You may make a law for shutting shops and banks and for depriving people of anything to do, but the absolute holiday is not yours to give." What a miserable day was that law holiday! I suppose that thousands who had not the least idea what to do with themselves, and who are not apt at amusing their families, wished themselves back again writing "By cash," or inquiring "What is the next article?" What are people to do on such a day, especially when it succeeds an evening of festivity, and is possibly sicklied o'er with the pale cast of indigestion? Some day our posterity will solve this problem, and perhaps erect various huge glass-covered places where rational amusement may be obtained without a railway journey. The idea is unreservedly placed at the service of our successors.

Alcibiades cut off the tail of his beautiful dog, that the circles of Athens might talk of the dog's tail and not of his master's evil doings—such is the story, but we are not obliged to believe it. A capital little novel was founded upon it by a French author, and it was translated years and years ago in *Blackwood*. It was called the "Dog of Alcibiades," but the scene was modern. Two young Parisian Elegants were rivals for the love of a beautiful woman in good society, and found it absolutely necessary that they should fight, and that one should be killed. But they had a loyal and respectful love for the lady (that is to say, the loyalty and respect were of the French sort, and compatible with the fact that she was the wife of a third gentleman), and they resolved that her name should not be mixed up with their duel. So they agreed to go behind the scenes of one of the theatres, offer ostentatious and rival homage to some actress, and publicly quarrel about her. The artiste, therefore, was the dog of Alcibiades. I may as well end the story. They fought, and one was killed. A friend who attended his funeral had found that the unfortunate Elegant had desired to be buried with a certain hair-locket attached to his neck. "A locket of fair hair, Monsieur," said the valet. "I thought so," murmured the friend. "Mademoiselle Francine, indeed! her hair is night." But he held his tongue. I have told the story—it is story-telling time—and it now occurs to me that I started with the intent to say something about Master McGrath. But what was to be said about him? He was a very fast and clever dog, and he is dead. That is all. Or, as young persons who read Latin are home for the holidays, shall we recall Sir Walter Scott's inscription on his favourite dog, Maida—an inscription which was open to a criticism, and this Lockhart gallantly offered to bear, holding his reputation of less consequence than that of the great author; but Scott, with his usual manliness, refused the shelter.

Maida marmored dormis sub imagine Maida,
Ad janitum domini sit tibi terra levis.

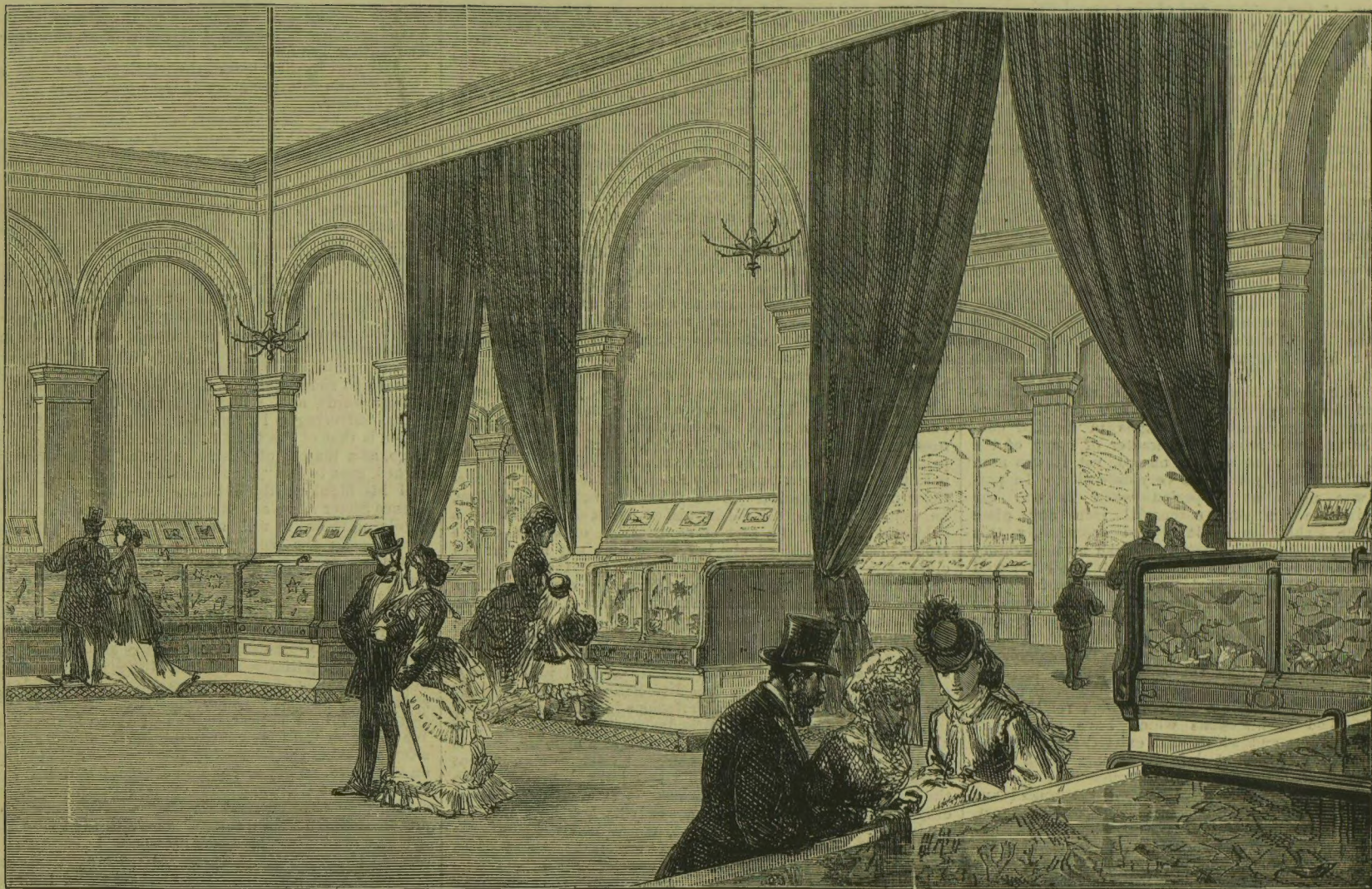
Perhaps young gentlemen who have nothing better to do than to tease their sisters on mornings when there is "no getting out" may like to vary that occupation by detecting the flaw in Sir Walter Scott's Latinity. His own brave excuse was Dr. Johnson's: "Ignorance, madam, pure ignorance." If the blemish escapes notice, let the fifth volume of Lockhart's delightful "Life" be searched.

Everybody has his own way of doing his own business, and I would compliment the president of the Liverpool and Birkenhead Gordovie Eisteddfod on the way he did his business on Monday. There was a Welsh festival, with prizes for odes in Welsh. Mr. John Rhys, whose name is certainly Welsh enough, informed his hearers that the idea that their language was re-asserting itself was entirely a mistake, and that the language was going the way of all the earth. Welsh publications gave no idea of its vitality, for they presented English idioms in a gaudy, ugly patchwork. The prospects of English in the Principality were very encouraging, and he would gladly exchange the old language for the voluminous Irish literature in Trinity College. All this was very much to the point, no doubt; but, considering that it came from the chairman of a Welsh festival, it somewhat resembled the treatment which the Aboriginal inhabitant, in Mr. Disraeli's marvellous witty story, "Popanilla," bestowed on an assembly. He made them an excellent and instructive speech, then, having given them all a good flogging, withdrew amid loud cheers.

I think that it may be permitted to me, at Christmas time, to propose a toast, and when I have named it I am sure, &c. Lovers of elegant entertainment, and you of the older sort who remember a thousand and one nights of that kind of amusement furnished for you by Mr. James Robinson Planché, before these young folk were heard of, do you know that this Christmas Mr. Planché himself places an entertainment before us? Memories of Fortunio, the Island of Jewels, and Chevy Chase! I am sure that my toast is joyously forestalled, and I sit down.



"WAITING FOR THE SHOT," BY JAMES HARDY, JUN.
IN THE DUDLEY GALLERY.



THE CRYSTAL PALACE AQUARIUM.



INSTALLATION OF THE NEW CONSTABLE OF THE TOWER.
SEE PAGE 639.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE AQUARIUM.

On Saturday, May 28, 1853, the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS published a notice, with two illustrations, of the first public aquarium ever erected, which was on that day opened in the Zoological Society's Gardens, Regent's Park. In the present Number is given a representation of the largest public aquarium yet made, at the northern end of the Crystal Palace.

The exhibition of the above-named aquarium in Regent's Park gave an enormous impulse to the popular study of living marine and fresh-water animals and plants; indeed, it may be said to have originated the movement which commenced in 1854, and which for a few years assumed so much the character of a "mania" that an aquarium in almost every house became quite an institution; and small ones, complete, with glass, water, plants, and animals, were, in 1855, hawked in the streets of London, and sold at a very small price.

Soon afterwards another public aquarium was opened in Dublin, and two others in New York and Boston. In 1860 a large one was set up in the recently-destroyed Acclimatization Gardens in Paris; and this was followed by one at Hamburg and one at Hanover, then by two others in Paris (in all there were three there in 1867), two at Havre, and by one each at Cologne, Brussels, Berlin, and Boulogne, till the money capital invested in these eleven French, Belgian, and German aquaria amounted to about £180,000. Although we regard the Regent's Park aquarium as having set a good example in the means of observing many animals which, previously to 1853, were known in life to but a few naturalists; and although, by its simplicity of construction and by its general arrangements (as then understood, however, erroneously), it stands in marked contrast with the pretentiousness of character of many of the French and German aquaria just named, yet it was soon discovered to be in many respects very defective. In particular, it was made at a period when it was the fashion to imitate the very successful iron and glass building of the Exhibition of 1851, and accordingly this Regent's Park aquarium was constructed like a conservatory or hothouse, set on a low wall of masonry. But, however well such an erection might be adapted for some forms of vegetation, and creatures needing much light and warmth, it was the very worst one possible for a collection of British aquatic plants and animals, the primary conditions of the existence of which are shade and coolness. Consequently, in the first summer of its existence, the mortality of the animals in the Regent's Park aquarium was very great, and the vegetation was stimulated into far too rapid a growth, which rendered the water turbid. The modifications which have since been made in the building, and which still exist there, have but partially remedied its original defects, among which have also to be enumerated the very serious ones of the small dimensions and tall and narrow proportions of the tanks (thus giving insufficient air-absorbing surfaces of water); and, chiefest of all, the very serious fault (in any but very diminutive tanks) of the absence of adequate means of purification by keeping the water ever in motion; as in the sea, and in rivers, and even in ponds; this motion being needed in addition to the aeration effected by plants growing in the water.

These considerations, added to the almost universal failure of domestic marine aquaria from the same causes, tended to impress the belief that success was impracticable or impossible; and hence England has so long remained without any important public aquarium, in spite of the wishes of scientific men that one should be established. But the prosperous condition of one of the foreign aquaria—that at Hamburg—chiefly induced the formation of the Crystal Palace Aquarium Company, which commenced its operations in April, 1870, and the building now completed was begun in July, 1870. Some animals were introduced and exhibited in August, 1871; and the collection was added to till it was ready for its recent inauguration.

It stands on a part of the ground left vacant by the fire of 1866, and consists of a building of one story high, measuring altogether about 400 ft. long and 70 ft. broad. The present arrangements are entirely marine, but space is provided for the addition of fresh-water tanks. There are 100,000 gallons of sea-water, of which 80,000 gallons are below the floor of the saloon, and 20,000 gallons in the tanks where the animals are shown. These tanks are sixty in number, and vary in capacity from forty to 4000 gallons each. Thirty-eight of the tanks are for the public exhibition of creatures and their associated plants, and are contained in a saloon and two smaller rooms, but the remaining twenty-two tanks, for the storage of surplus animals, are in a gallery (behind the large show tanks), and are not shown to the public. All the public tanks are fitted with plate glass, varying in thickness from three eighths of an inch to one inch; and through these, and in some tanks also through the surface of the water, the contents are seen. The sea-water is being constantly pumped by steam power from the great reservoir below to the tanks above, day and night, at the rate of from 5000 to 10,000 gallons an hour; and, after it has travelled from tank to tank through the entire series, it disappears below; to be again pumped up; and thus the same sea-water may be used incessantly, without change, for a time which is believed to be practically illimitable, if fresh water be occasionally added, to supply the loss by evaporation, and if there be also added the solid constituents absorbed by some animals, as the lime and other matters contained in the shells of lobsters, oysters, and others. To guard against the chance of the stoppage of the streams, all parts of the machinery in motion or liable to get out of order are in duplicate. Thus there are two steam-engines, two pumps, and two boilers; and, that there may be no corrosion by sea-water, and consequent injury to animals, all the pipes, strainers, stopcocks, and jets are of vulcanite and stoneware. The architect is Mr. C. H. Driver, of Victoria-street, Westminster.

The building is very solidly constructed, to bear the great weight it sustains; and no more light is admitted than is necessary to enable the animals to be seen clearly and to cause the very small growth of vegetation necessary for their health. This exclusion of unnecessary light enables the place to be maintained desirably cool for the creatures and for visitors in summer, while in winter it is kept warm by hot-water pipes, and thus the temperature at all seasons varies only from 60 deg. to 65 deg. Fahr. Indeed, in this aquarium every known improvement suggested since aquaria have existed has been adopted. It is capable of containing a large and varied collection of living marine animals, from very small ones to those of considerable size, and these may be watched under circumstances very advantageous to the naturalist and the ordinary sightseer. In particular the operation of feeding the creatures is going on by day continually, except on Sundays. The entire general arrangements have been planned by the superintendent, Mr. W. A. Lloyd. Our illustration is a view of the saloon, as seen from one of the smaller rooms.

We are authorised to state that the Christmas examination for admission to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, will commence on Tuesday, Jan. 16, instead of Tuesday, Jan. 9, as previously announced.

MEMBERS OUT OF PARLIAMENT.

At the last general election the borough of Cambridge, to use a Boyle-Rocheism, turned its back upon itself—that is to say, it cut adrift two Conservatives, who had represented it in the previous Parliament, not without distinction (indeed, both of them were prominent men), and returned, by majorities of consequence, two avowedly advanced Liberals. Both these gentlemen have—though, of course, in a different manner, politically speaking—quite filled the places of the ex-representatives, and occupy good positions, and something more, in the House. There is Mr. Richard Torrens, who, if there is anything in the transmission of qualities and acquirements, ought to be a born political economist; and possibly he may have been, in a certain sense, nursed on the aliment with which political economists are nourished. And certainly he treats topics with which he deals with a good deal of the manner which is associated with that class of social philosophers. He has that which is really a great advantage in the House—a specialty, and, being capable of using it well, he became at once an authority on colonial matters, and particularly on Australasian subjects. Although by no means in the vale of years, and very upright in his carriage, he has a venerable look about his face and head—the sort of look which is conventionally associated with wisdom; and so, altogether, he is well known. In a recent speech to his constituents he seems to have displayed his usual practical qualities, and to have uttered good advice to the Liberal party. The other member for Cambridge, Mr. W. Fowler, is even as self-possessed a man as you would meet with anywhere. There is no undue assumption, nothing exactly pretentious about him, but there is palpable consciousness that whatever he says is right, that it is based on principles in which he has unshaken convictions; and there is in the rather slow but steady fluency of his elocution something nearly impressive. Even if he had not done so before, he would have become distinguished by having taken up a subject which caused a sort of resurrection of a rule of the House, perhaps deemed obsolete, by which any member can clear the conventional "strangers" out, including the chroniclers of speeches. This proceeding caused quite a sensation, and the revival naturally led to a consideration of whether there ought not to be a modification of a regulation which renders debating the affairs of the nation a private interchange of ideas between responsible representatives. In his speech at his borough meeting will be found just the kind of issue of thought and resolute assertion which characterises his by no means infrequent dissertations in the House.

If diligence in personal attendance, and rapt attention to all that goes on in the House be virtues in a member, then is Dr. Brewer, M.P. for Colchester, the most virtuous man in that assembly. It would seem as if he had imbued himself with the idea that a neophyte in Parliament (which he is, being only of the era of 1868) should not only be, but seem to be, a student of the proceedings; and, consequently, he is ever one of the first to come and amongst the last to leave; and probably he is the one of all others who goes out during the sitting so seldom that it may be almost called never. Then he is not only the most patient—that is necessary to everyone—but the most appreciative of listeners, when some dreary back-bencher is keeping debate simmering in the dull, drowsy, middle hours from seven to ten, as much as when the Prime Minister or the leader of the Opposition is thundering to the country as well as to the House. Equally is the worthy member for Colchester to be seen sitting forward, literally giving all ears, besides nods and becks of approval, or head-shakes of dissent, with pencil and note-book in hand, with an expression of intensity of interest on his countenance, and altogether in the sort of attitude that might well be assumed when he is sitting for the statue inevitably to be erected to him on the Thames Embankment in memorial of his services as chairman of the Metropolitan Asylums Board and in connection with those rendered to the Hampstead Hospital. Of course, there were reasons why he should believe himself acceptable to the electors of Colchester, or he would not have wooed its constituency more than once before he achieved its membership; and, as has been said, his Parliamentary assiduity, so far as staying in the House is concerned, is such as ought to recommend him still to the favour of those he represents. Indeed, as a medical man and a philanthropist, he must make great sacrifices; for what becomes of his patients after four o'clock every day during the Session who shall say? He has not given much taste of his rhetorical quality, having only occasionally delivered speechlets; but he gives the idea that he is in conception of a great oration, which would burst out some day. Indeed, once he had hovering for weeks a motion which, it was presumed, would serve for the production of some gigantic intellectual and physical effort; but time and the hour (awfully late) were against him, and he did little beyond giving reasons why he should not press it. At any rate, it is clear that his Parliamentary life is satisfactory to his constituents, for an appeal to them in that regard, the other day, was answered solely by "acclamations."

It is no small distinction in a Scotch representative to be true to his own country and at the same time be a perfunctory member for the whole country. If to this is added constant attendance in the House, though by no means constant sitting, but rather flitting restlessly about, and ever and anon breaking out with ardent little orations upon every subject, from different and unexpected parts of the House; if to have always half a dozen motions on various topics upon the paper, and having, after long waiting, got the chance of bringing on one of them, under such favourable circumstances as are contained in thinness of audience, so that soliloquy may go on unchecked until a mass of prepared and written matter is exhausted; if to seem to be on good terms with all mankind and with himself in particular, and to tend towards (we will not be so rude to say develop) demonstrative boredom;—if all this makes up a remarkable if not a model member, then who shall gainsay the right to such a designation of Mr. M'Fie, who has just been sunning himself in the eyes of his constituents at Leith?

Whenever some people thought of the members for Chelsea, somehow there may have arisen in their minds recollection of the exquisite passage in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" which describes the pure affection which existed between Helena and Hermia, and which contains the expression that they were "like twin cherries on one stalk;" and then came the suggestion of a paraphrase, as thus:—"Twin Baronets on one borough." Anyone who has observed the Parliamentary career of Sir Henry Hoare must have felt that he was loyally endeavouring on all occasions to prove that, as a philosophical Radical, he was striving to keep abreast of his colleague, Sir Charles Dilke—at how much expense of his obviously aristocratic proclivities who shall say? Now, however, the political twinnishness is severed, the two cherries are rent asunder, and (not in Chelsea, but at an agricultural society's meeting at some place, of which it can only be said that it must be somewhere in the west) Sir Henry has solemnly disavowed Sir Charles, so that the Monarchist and the Republican will no longer stand shoulder to shoulder; the latter becoming in some sense desolate.

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENTS.

Our notice of the Christmas entertainments must partake of a necessarily cursory character, owing to the fact of Tuesday being Boxing Night; but we shall amply supply all omissions when we come to our scenic illustrations. We commence with

COVENT GARDEN.

The matrimonial adventures of the renowned Blue Beard have furnished Mr. Henry J. Byron with an admirable subject. The author has humorously placed the connubial atrocities of the Oriental Bashaw before the public in an entirely new garb and given an interpretation of the legend from a totally novel point of view.

The Monkey, Rangootangoobuskibaboonetta (Mr. Delivanti), perusing despatches and telegrams, opens the action, and states that his old friend and ally, Blue Beard (Mr. G. H. Macdermott), is again about to commit matrimony for the thirteenth time, and also resolves to visit the newly-married couple, to destroy the happiness of their honeymoon, and to secure his blue-bearded victim. Selim, Fatima's former lover, has to give place to his rich and powerful rival, relying on his advancement in the Army, through promotion without purchase. A grand procession, winding down the mountain, arrives to the music of an animated nasal brass band. Blue Beard, descending from his white elephant, describes his mild and gentle nature; and Fatima, by a forcible marriage, becomes Mrs. Blue Beard, being reconciled to her new condition by hopes of an early widowhood giving her liberty and riches galore. Soon the Bashaw and his bride get to high words, and, under pretext of business, he leaves his home, delivering to Fatima the awful bunch of keys, among which is that of the fatal Blue Chamber. Fatima, warned not to go, as a matter of course, soon as her husband's back is turned, goes to the "Blue Chamber" to have a peep. Mischief and his Monkey, there before her by magical concoction, silence Sister Anne and Mr. and Mrs. Shacabac's objections by involving them, as well as Fatima, in the mysterious "influences." To the consternation of the whole party, Blue Beard unexpectedly returns. Fatima sends Mrs. Shacabac secretly away for help. Mrs. Shacabac, mounting the family Arabian, flies on her fiery steed to the "Camp," where at that moment a grand review and military revel are taking place. Here we see evolutions and manoeuvres by numerous regiments of Amazonian sisters, who in true military style manfully represent brothers in arms. A dance of vivandières succeeds, and the celebrated grotesques, MM. Clodoche, Flageolet, La Comete, and La Normande, here appear in one of their fantastic creations. We pass over the well-known incidents of the story. After a few mistakes the advancing troops are visible to Sister Anne on the tower. They arrive, and Mischief and his Monkey do their share of the work. The palace gates are stormed, the strong places are assailed, the Bashaw's troops are defeated, and Blue Beard absquatulates to hide in the coal-cellar. Dislodged from among his black diamonds, he capitulates, and is punished accordingly. From this gloomy abode, all being poetically adjusted, valour and virtue receive their crowning reward in a scene of fairy glory, artistically designed and executed by Mr. Caney. The harlequinade includes Mr. A. F. Forrest (as clown), his first appearance at this theatre; Mr. C. Brown (as harlequin), Mr. Paulo (pantaloon), and Mlle. Mercedes (columbine), from the principal Continental theatres; harlequina, Mlle. Charlotte; and "Les Incroyables," Masters E. and J. Forrest. The music of the opening has been selected and composed by Mr. Betjemann. The scenery is by Messrs. Dayes, Caney, and Perkins, and the dances are arranged by M. Desplaces. Mr. Harris has certainly placed the whole on the boards in a handsome style, as remarkable for its taste as its splendour. The theatre was crowded, and the performance was completely successful.

DRURY LANE.

"Tom Thumb; or, Harlequin King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table," is the twenty-second Christmas contribution of Mr. E. L. Blanchard to the Drury Lane stage. The present annual is a fanciful adaptation to pantomime purposes of the legendary story of King Arthur, as so poetically narrated by Lord Lytton and Alfred Tennyson, the "beautiful child" of the legend being in this instance whimsically identified with the celebrated Tom Thumb of nursery literature, here personated by that clever little actor Master John Manley. A novel induction, which introduces the famous Queen of Fielding's mock-heroic tragedy, shows us a doll's house as the abode of Dollalolla, and the wonderful scene of excitement which takes place when the clock strikes midnight. The ill-usage to which dolls are subjected by children is the subject of much discussion, and, in consultation with other animated toys, who have been equally bruised and battered, an ingenious mode of evading the torture of their juvenile tyrants is adopted. This notion is further developed in a scene, à la Watteau, called the Garden of Dainty Devices, when Poetry, Painting, Music, and Dancing are enlisted into the service. Then begins the story of Merlin, the enchanter (Mr. Britain Wright), in return for their hospitable treatment, providing Goody and Gaffer Thumb with the morsel of humanity they had so long wished for. How Tom tumbles into the batter-putting, and is carried off by the tinker, receives, of course, practical illustration. The arrival of King Arthur and his famous Knights of the Round Table—presented by Mr. Fred Vokes, the other members of the versatile and volatile Vokes family, and Miss Harriet Coveney—leads to Merlin warning the King of his danger unless he reforms his ways and finds the lovely child who is to guide him according to the legend. The pursuit of the fugitive Tom Thumb, who is successfully swallowed by a cow, taken up by a crow, cropped down the throat of a giant, thrown up again into the river, devoured by a salmon, and finally brought to King Arthur's table, is elaborately set forth in the subsequent scenes, and when Vivien, the fascinating, has finally extracted the secret from Merlin, the legend is fulfilled. The piece is illustrated with entirely new scenery and some extraordinary mechanical effects by Mr. William Beverley, supplied with the liveliest music by Mr. W. C. Levey, and enriched with a variety of ballets by Mr. John Cormack. There is a double pantomime company, as usual; Messrs. W. Harvey and Fawdon Vokes being the Harlequins, F. Evans and W. H. Harvey the Clowns, Paul Herring and J. Morris the Pantaloons, and Misses Jessie and Rosina Vokes the Columbines. The audience was large and noisily demonstrative, and the performance was throughout received with the most vociferous applause.

ADELPHI.

Mr. Charles Millwood has supplied to the Adelphi a fairy tale, entitled "Little Snowwhite," the Princess so named being represented by Mrs. John Wood. Snowwhite, the daughter of Ozokerit, has been intrusted by the faeries to the care of the wood nymphs. Prince Goldenheart (Mrs. Alfred Mellon) and Prince Sapling (Mr. Vernon) are doomed, for the fault of their father, King Kokahoop (Mr. Calhaem), to misery by the Fairy Extravaganza (Miss Beauclerc), until one of them can find and marry a woman who has never seen her face in a glass. Snowwhite, of course, proves to be the lady; but she is recognised

by Kokahoop as his niece, and therefore, being the legitimate heiress to the throne, the worst enemy of the usurper. He looks up Goldenheart in the prisoners' tower; but Snowwhite finds the place, and Goldenheart throws her the key which admits her to the Chamber of Mirrors in the Royal Palace. Here she beholds her own features reflected in the glass. The spell is accordingly dissolved. All are made happy, except Kokahoop, who orders himself to be executed. He, however, is reprieved by the audience, and joins in a new song and dance, with which the performance terminates. The piece is capably mounted, and proved deservedly successful.

GAITEY.

A new burlesque by Mr. W. S. Gilbert forms the Christmas piece at this house. It is entitled "Thespis; or, The Gods Grown Old." With this idea—that is, of the senility of the deities—the drama commences, Diana and Apollo being the sufferers. But Mercury, it seems, has a privilege, and remains young, though neither Jupiter nor Venus is permitted to share in it. Thespis and his travelling company undertake to cure this state of things. Mr. Toole represents Thespis, and Miss Farren Mercury, both playing with the utmost energy and effect. The result was quite satisfactory, and the audience had reason to be pleased, as they were, with the talent displayed.

PRINCESS'S.

The Brothers Grinn have succeeded admirably with their new pantomime "Harlequin Little Dicky Dilver, with his Stick of Silver," which has been placed on the boards in the most attractive form. Miss Lennox Grey represents the Drama in a fog, and is comforted by her advisers—Success (Miss Marston), Fashion (Miss Hudspeth), and Novelty (Miss Leigh). Dicky Dilver is enacted by Miss Caroline Parkes, who journeys through the Animal, Vegetable, and Mineral Kingdoms in search of adventures. Miss Logan, a very juvenile performer, particularly won the esteem of the audience. The transformation scene was remarkably elegant, and the whole performance commanded the applause of a full house.

STRAND.

Mr. Burnand's new burlesque at the Strand is named "Arion; or, the Story of a Lyre," and is much indebted for its success to the singing of Miss Augusta Thomson and Miss Rosina Rance. The latter appears as Menin Aiede, a captive Greek slave, on board a pirate-ship, but betrothed to Arion. The pirates resolve on his death, but the famous harpist escapes by leaping into the sea. They exhibit Menin at a fair as a two-tailed mermaid, but she is rescued by Prince Dappermeibomenos (Miss Topsy Venn), who loves her and marries her. Arion is disconsolate, and seeks to drown himself, but is translated, with his dolphin, among the stars. There is much fun in the piece, which has been perfectly successful.

COURT.

A new play, instead of a new pantomime, was produced at the new Chelsea theatre—namely, an adaptation, by Mr. J. Daly Bessemere, of "Nicholas Nickleby," under the title of "Dotheboys' Hall." Mr. Bessemere has kept close to the author's dialogue, including the incidents commencing with the coffee-room of the Saracen's Head, and ending with Nickleby's lodgings in London. All the interval is very adroitly sketched, and the whole proved interesting to the audience. The various characters, numerous as they are, were very accurately represented, and Mr. Bessemere may be congratulated on his success. "Isaac of York" and a sketch, called "A Christmas Pantomime," concluded the performances.

OLYMPIC.

Mr. Liston has provided a new piece for the holiday, simply a farce in one act, entitled "Never Reckon your Chickens before They are Hatched," written by Mr. Wybert Reeve, setting forth the troubles of a retired tallow-chandler and his three daughters—a would-be fashionable young lady, a tragic aspirante, and a terrible romp. A lover appears, who creates considerable confusion; and a luckless dinner gives rise to much grotesque incident, and carries on the whimsical interest of the piece to a fortunate conclusion. "The Woman in White" and a ballet, entitled "The Misadventures of a Barber," furnish the rest of the entertainment.

SADLER'S WELLS.

Mr. Belton has selected the nursery rhyme of "Old Mother Hubbard and her Wonderful Dog," for his pantomime, introducing a variety of other fabulous celebrities. This is his version of the story:—The good spirits have so long marred the plans of the evil ones, that Gobblefry, the demon spider king, is resolved to prevent their exit from Fairyland by weaving a web in the sky; but Mother Hubbard, who protects Tommy Tucker, the rightful heir of King Cock-o'-the-Walk, who has been stolen in early life, is resolved to sweep the skies of that impediment, and to that end summons Mother Shipton and other witches to assist. A grand combat of good and evil genii takes place in the Burning City of Eternal Flames. Mother Hubbard, like many, owes rent and taxes, and the cruel myriads of the law will not yield; she therefore gets up the steam, and departs to sweep the sky. Her mission being done, she is introduced to the grand conclave of fairies, and determines to reinstate Tommy Tucker in his lost kingdom. She departs for that purpose; but Jack, by the evil genii, is foisted off as the heir-apparent, and all is dismay until Queen Prettymouse, by a clever contrivance, puts off the execution of poor Tommy, and all ends happily in the Realm of Bliss. The principal vocalists engaged are Misses Catherine Lucette, Nellie Nisbett, the Sisters Henriette, J. Collier, C. Fenton, Lewis Ball, &c.; dancers, Mdle. Silvana, Jenny Abot, Nellie Tippet, and the Sisters Bouchier. Clown, Great Little Ellis; Sims, Harlequin; Pantaloon, Mylo Blyde, Don Pattos (the one-legged dancer), and the Brothers Allwood. The transformation scene is very good, and the whole performance was eminently successful.

NATIONAL STANDARD.

The pantomime, by Mr. John T. Douglass, entitled "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp," introduces the Fairy Butterfly (Miss Annie Collins) in council, in a beautiful glade overhanging a lake. Ruffiano, the Demon, states his determination to send the Magician, Alzacora, for the magic lamp, supposed to be secreted in a rock near the town of Pekin, in China. A grand fairy ballad, by eighty ladies, succeeds: principal dancers, Mdle. Leonie and Mdle. Zenobia. We have next a road near Pekin, with a lot of boys playing, amongst whom is Aladdin, the son of a widow named Congou (Mr. Arthur Williams). The Magician, Alzacora (Mr. J. W. Wallace), arrives from Africa in search of the magic lamp, and discovers Aladdin, whom he leads from the city to a cave, where brilliant jewels are found at every step. The Magician, with some magical words, closes up the earth upon Aladdin, as he thinks, for ever, and departs for Africa again. Aladdin, however, has received a ring from the Magician, and, rubbing this in despair, a genie appears, and helps him out of his trouble, sending him to Congou Villa, Pekin, where the widow receives her son with open arms. He details his adventure, and the mother, wishing to clean the lamp to sell, rubs it, and a monstrous genie appears and directs him to the Emperor's palace, where Aladdin is brought, preceded

by a grand procession of Chinese charmers, bearing costly presents, and distributing gold in profusion. The Emperor of China (Mrs. J. F. Brian), struck by the magnificence of the display and the riches of Aladdin, immediately consents that his daughter shall be his bride, though promised to Pekoe (Miss Adele Woerth), the son of the Grand Vizier (Mr. J. F. Brian). Thereupon the Vizier becomes a deadly foe to Aladdin, and, refusing to advance the servants' wages, for the Emperor, the servants strike work, and the Emperor and daughter are forced to work for themselves, while Aladdin lives in a palace, the wonder of everybody. The Magician, dressed as an old Jew, returns to Pekin and offers new lamps for old ones. Ultimately we see the entire palace flying, borne on the back of a gigantic genie; and a grand revel of the Celestial slaves of the lamp, 150 ladies clad in gorgeous and brilliant costumes, takes place. The palace, being taken back again to Pekin, changes to the Home of the Butterflies, the grand transformation scene, which comprises twelve changes, and illustrates the growth of the silkworm to the chrysalis, and thence to the butterfly, a beautiful scenic illusion, by Mr. Richard Douglass. Clown, Mr. Johnny Johns; Pantaloon, Mr. Carter; Harlequin, Mr. Talbert; Columbine, Mdle. Leonie; Harlequina, Mdle. Cordelia; Sprites, Les Frères Ladoche. Comic Budget, 1871-2. The music has been selected and arranged by Mr. B. Isaacson.

ASTLEY'S.

"Lady Godiva; or, St. George and the Dragon" is the title of the pantomime at this theatre. Leofric, Earl of Mercia and Coventry, and his wife, the lovely Godiva, have adopted a foundling as their son and heir. The scene is laid in Coventry and its suburbs. To induce her stern Lord (Leofric) to remit some portion of taxes, Countess Godiva consents to ride through the city at noon "without a stitch upon her," and the city is thereby relieved from its fiscal burdens. The prying tailor, one Tom Slyford, is dragged from his shop by the mob; Godiva undertakes his punishment, and is eminently successful in demonstrating the true significance of woman's rights. Tom, having been knocked out of time by the vigorous and scientific Countess, is seized by the citizens, immersed in a horse-trough, and finally pumped upon. During the hubbub, Kalyba enters, and carries off the infant heir, who has been christened St. George. Having an impressionable temperament, the sorceress falls deeply in love with the unconscious youth. She, however, does not resent his coldness, but provides him with a squire, a fellow named Pickaback, and introduces him to the remaining six champions. Rendered unsuspecting by the warmth of her love for St. George, the sorceress, to humour him, lends him her magic wand, the power of which he immediately tests by inclosing Kalyba in a rock. Dismissing his fellow-champions to various parts of the Paynim world, St. George undertakes the deliverance of Egypt from the dragon. St. George is nearly conquered, but the Dragon, who is as amorous as he is voracious, happening to catch sight of the fair Sabra, forgets the peril he is in and makes a mute declaration of love. St. George immediately takes advantage of his opponent's blunder and administers the coup de grâce. He is, however, now attacked by a whole army of dragons, and with the greatest difficulty succeeds in vanquishing them. Miss Amy Sheridan represents Lady Godiva, and Miss Marie Henderson St. George. Miss Cicely Nott and Miss Rose Mayne are also engaged. The transformation scene is wonderfully brilliant and effective.

SURREY.

The pantomime here, named "King of the Peacocks; or, Harlequin Tom Tiddler's Ground," is similar in subject to that of the Princess's. King Silver is sent on a like mission to the three kingdoms, and by his success entitles himself to the hand of the Princess whom he loves. The transformation scene is really magnificent, and so pleased were the audience that the manager and designer were summoned before the curtain to receive the plaudits of the house. Mr. Harry Clouste officiated as Clown, Mr. H. Lovell as Pantaloon, Mr. Romaine as Harlequin, and Miss Emille Ellis as Columbine.

NEW PAVILION.

The pantomime here, entitled "Rip Van Winkle; or, Cease Rude Boreas and the Demon Slumber of Twenty Years," is written by Mr. Frederick Marchant. The action commences with a ship battling with the storm, lured to its destruction by demon wreckers. Prince Duckadiamonds (Miss Emma Warde) and Tremoloso, his valet (Mr. C. Jones), are seen to sink into the waves. A glittering mermaid rises with the exhausted Prince Duckadiamonds, rescued by King Neptune. Tremoloso, his servant, meantime, is cast on shore, having been saved by Porpoise. The wreckers surround them, and by the command of the four winds both are inclosed in Davy Jones's Locker. Prince Neptune, the guardian genius of the sea (Miss Louie Sherrington), saves the captives from death. At length we are taken to the Village and Alehouse, where the drunken bores are sadly used by Dame Vrow Van Winkle (Mr. Fred Bedford). Rip Van Winkle (Mr. D'Auban) appears with his dog Sneider (Master Samuels); both are apparently the worse for drinking, incited by the "wicked" Burgomaster, Mynheer Hans Blusterbag von Braggen (Mr. John Warde). Neptune next, in his Sea-Weed Home at the Bottom of the Deep Blue Sea, summons his naiads, who immediately proceed with their fairy sports and a grand ballet. Rip's Cottage upon the Family Washing-Day presents a rare scene of fun. Dame Van Winkle, in a fit of jealousy, drives Rip from home into the storm. The great scene of the pantomime is the Catskills by moonlight, where Rip drinks from the mystic goblet, and, during the revels of the fairies, falls asleep; whereupon one of those extraordinary performances for which D'Auban and Warde are celebrated takes place, and the scene ends with a gorgeous tableau. Twenty years having elapsed, Rip, returning to the village, is unrecognised, and the various incidents of the legend are enacted until the grand transformation scene, invented and painted by Mr. Thomas Rogers. The harlequinade was supported by the D'Aubans and Wardes, R. Jones, and C. Ross. The entire performance gave satisfaction to a crowded house.

NEW EAST LONDON.

Here the pantomime, also by Mr. Frederick Marchant, is called "Little Bo-Peep, Who Lost Her Sheep, and Humpty Dumpty; or, Harlequin Little Boy Blue and the Good Little Woman Who Lived in the Wood." The transformation scene is painted and designed by Mr. G. R. Smythies, the charming ballet scene by Mr. C. Stafford. We cannot describe the course of the action, which is very complex; but the whole proved highly exciting to the crowded audience, and met with decided success.

We must content ourselves with registering the title of the pantomime at the Britannia—namely, "The Old Man and the Ass; or, Robin Redbreast and his Eleven Hungry Brothers." Other entertainments have been provided at different places of amusement. At Hengler's Circus a fairy interlude, entitled "Cinderella; or, the Little Glass Slipper," was produced and acted in the arena; the story is cleverly told, and the spectacle in which it is embodied is really gorgeous. At the Agricultural Hall, also, a Christmas novelty was exhibited by the Messrs. Sanger, who have chosen for their subject "The War in China." This is a regular drama, with scenes on the stage as

well as in the arena, and about 1500 performers are engaged in the representation, including a number of Arabs, whose tricks are marvellous.

The Christy Minstrels have attracted large audiences at the St. James's Great Hall. Mr. Moore has treated the public with a new song called "Dressed in a Dolly Varden," and others of his distinguished troupe engage in ballad-singing with the most profitable results. The performances conclude with a burlesque on modern opera, which provokes the most vehement applause. Mr. Planché contributes this year to Mr. and Mrs. German Reed's entertainment, at the Gallery of Illustration, a really good little drama entitled "King Christmas; a Fancyful Morality," to which probably we shall have repeated occasion to allude. At the Polytechnic the adventures of Peter Schlemil, illustrated on the disc by Mr. George Cruikshank's etchings, are calculated to prove immensely attractive.

MUSIC.

Of the past week's doings there is little to record; repetitions of "The Messiah" in various quarters constituted almost the only musical performances that were in progress during the closing portion of the year. Handel's sublime oratorio was given somewhat in anticipation of the Christmas celebration (on Dec. 8) at the Royal Albert Hall, as already noticed by us; and it was repeated there on Monday last, again conducted by Sir Julius Benedict, and with other similar features in the programme—Mr. Sims Reeves, however, having been absent from indisposition. The tenor solos were accordingly divided between three volunteer performers. The other singers were Mdles. Titiens and Drasil and Signors Foli and Agnesi. Previous to the oratorio, "God bless the Prince of Wales" was sung; and between the parts the National Anthem was given.

The earliest of the intermediate performances of "The Messiah" was that given at the third of the oratorio concerts, last week, when the principal vocalists were Mesdames Lemmens-Sherrington and Laura Baxter, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Herr Stockhausen. The grand declamation of Mr. Reeves and the fine chorus-singing of Mr. Barnby's choir were prominent features of the occasion. Herr Stockhausen, who was apparently indisposed, was replaced in "The trumpet shall sound" by Mr. Beale. Mr. Barnby conducted, and Mr. Docker presided at the organ—both with their usual efficiency.

The "oratorio of oratorios," as it has long been justly styled, was performed by the Sacred Harmonic Society yesterday (Friday) week. The principal soprano solos were again sung by Madame Sherrington, the other vocalists having been Miss Enriquez, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Signor Agnesi. The choruses were given with those powerful effects, including the preponderance of the great organ, which prevail at these concerts, and Sir M. Costa conducted as usual. The performance was to be repeated by the society last (Friday) evening. The oratorio was preceded by the National Anthem.

Other performances of "The Messiah" were announced to be given by the North London Vocal Union, at the Agricultural Hall, on Thursday week; and by the Welsh Choral Union, at Store-street Rooms, on the following evening.

Mr. Henry Holmes's series of musical evenings closed last week, with the fifth concert, at which Beethoven's elaborate quartet in C sharp minor, op. 131 (No. 15 of the series), was effectively led by the concert-giver, supported by Messrs. Burnett, Folkes, and Signor Pezze, who were reinforced in Mozart's quintet in D by Mr. Hann. Mr. W. H. Holmes, the pianist, played (with his namesake) Gade's sonata for piano and violin, besides solo pieces. Miss R. Jewell was the vocalist and Mr. Shedlock the accompanist.

The first musical occurrence of the new year will be the commencement, on Jan. 3, of a new series of Mr. John Boosey's Ballad Concerts, ten of which are to be given on consecutive Wednesdays. Several of our principal vocalists are announced, together with Madame Arabella Goddard as solo pianist, for the opening concert.

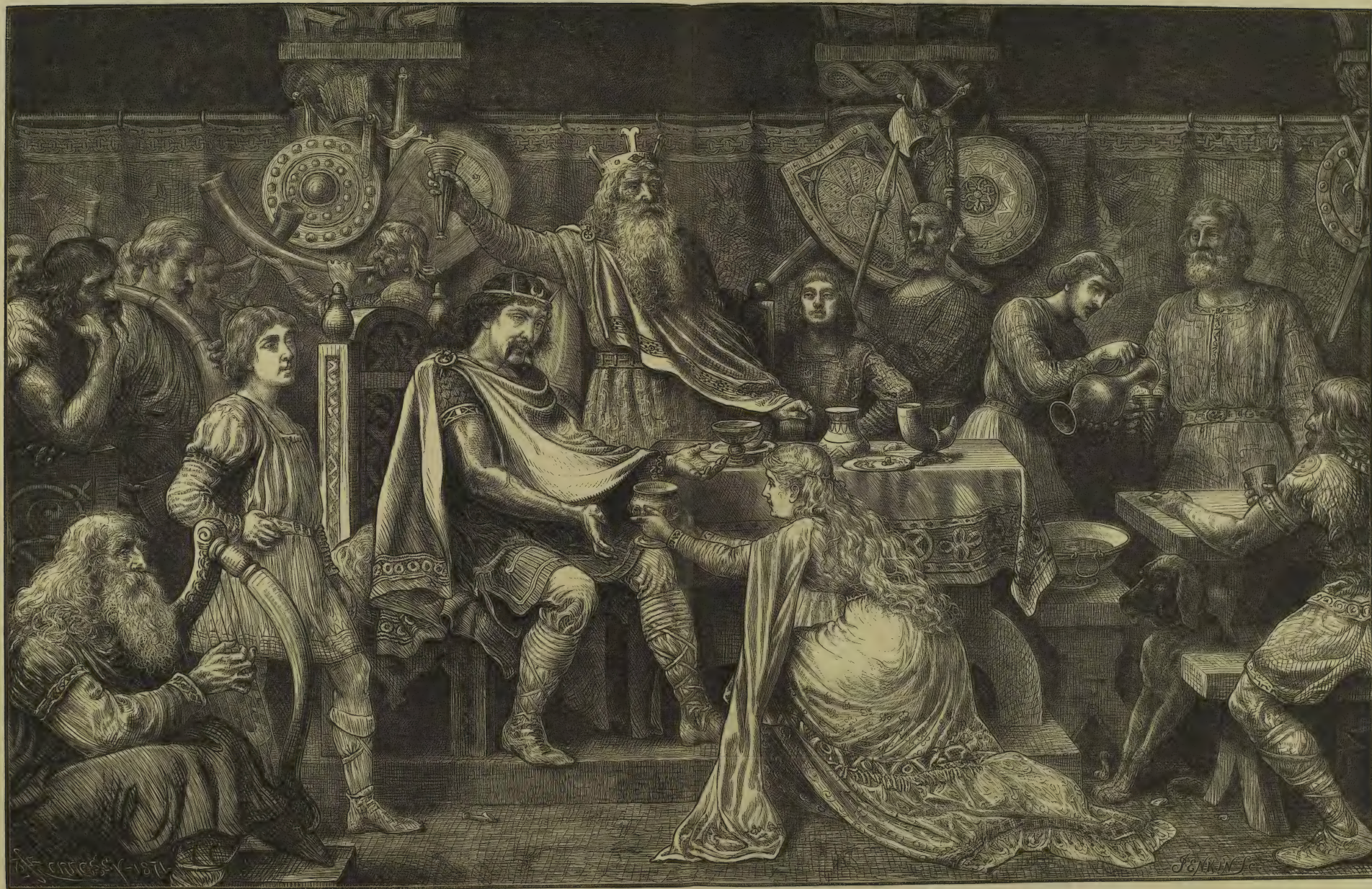
As previously mentioned, the Monday Popular Concerts will be resumed on Jan. 8, and those of the Crystal Palace on Jan. 20.

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW CONSTABLE OF THE TOWER.

Field Marshal Sir George Pollock, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., was, on Saturday last, duly installed as Lieutenant of the Tower and Governor of the Royal palace and fortress. Towards eleven o'clock the City became enveloped in a dense fog. The shops were all lighted with gas, and the cabs and hansoms had their lamps burning. The dim outline of the Tower, partially seen by the lights in the windows of its various apartments, presented a more than ordinarily sombre and dreary aspect. Shortly before noon, when the day was at its darkest, Sir George Pollock arrived. He was met at the entrance to the Queen's house by the Lord Chamberlain, Viscount Sydney; Colonel Milman, fort major of the Tower; and other Tower officers. The ceremony took place in the Tower-green, where was the first battalion of the Scots Fusilier Guards, commanded by Colonel Hepburn; the Coast Brigade of the Royal Artillery, stationed in the Tower, under the command of Major Handyside, were drawn up in double line, so as to form three sides of a square. The yeomen wardens of the Tower were then formed in semicircle within those lines, looking gaily historic in their ancient liveries, and supporting their formidable halberds. They were seen by the assistance of "port lights," which gave to the whole scene an appearance of theatrical display. A centre figure in the scene was the fantastically caparisoned goat of the Scots Fusiliers, the daughter of the regiment. Mr. Richards, the Deputy Coroner, read the Queen's patent appointing Sir George Pollock Custos Rotulorum and Lord Lieutenant of the Tower Hamlets. Mr. Ratcliff afterwards read Sir George's appointment as Governor of the Royal Palace and Tower, at the conclusion of which Lord Chamberlain Sydney handed the keys of the Tower, in the Queen's name, to the new Lieutenant, who in turn handed them over to the Fort Major, Colonel Milman; whereupon Yeoman Porter Hughes cried aloud, "God save the Queen," to which the warders responded, "Amen." The troops then presented arms to the keys, and the band of the Scots Fusiliers played the National Anthem. The various officers of the Tower having been presented to Sir George Pollock, the new Lieutenant took possession of the Governor's house, and so the ceremony ended. A distinguished company was present to witness the installation.

Viscount Macduff, the eldest son of the Earl of Fife, has been appointed Lord Lieutenant of Elginshire.

At Ayr, on Saturday last, a boy thirteen years of age, the son of a letter-carrier, quarrelled with his mother, and immediately ran to the railway, about a mile from the town, and, on a train coming up, deliberately laid his head on the rail. He was, of course, instantly killed.



THE FIRST WASSAIL CUP.

The First Massail.

Part One.

'Twas fourteen hundred years ago, and twenty years beside,
The thing of which my verse shall tell in Britain did betide,
When Vortigern, the British chief, had got the full
command,
The sons of Roman Constantine had driven from the land.

The bitter North sent forth its swarms, across the Roman
wall,
For plunder leagued, the Scots and Picts, on this good land to
fall,
While from beyond the southern sea, on Brittany's far shore,
Ambrose and Uther, princes wronged, a vengeful purpose bore.

So Vortigern was sore perplexed, till as he paced one day
The eastward cliff where Ramsgate is, he looked o'er Pegwell
Bay,

And saw three ships of foreign shape the narrow channel gain
Between the Isle of Thanet there, and Kentish land the main.

The herald of King Vortigern was sent in haste to know
What strangers made so bold to come, and if as friend or foe;
And soon he brought their answer back, "We're Saxons wild
and free,
We seek a richer home than ours—we mean to dwell with
thee."

Beyond the Weser and the Elbe, towards the Baltic coast,
In Holstein, Schleswig, Jutland too, were reared the sturdy
host
Of Saxons, Jutes, and Angles all, who long through Britain
ranged,
Until its native Celtic race for English folk was changed.

But Vortigern was ignorant, as man will ever be,
Of changes near and distant hid in dark futurity,
With Hengist and with Horsa then, twin captains of the crew,
He met in talk and questioned them of ways and manners new.

These heathens, who the Church and faith of Christendom
ignored,
Their Woden, Freya, Saturn, Thor, on weekly days adored;
They sought to win a wealthy land by work of sword and spear;
For this their nation sent a fleet in every seventh year.

"Now welcome, valiant Saxons!" did the King of Britain
say;

"I bid you fight to save my realm, and well I will you pay,
For service of your sword and spear, in land of soil the best,
My foes shall be defeated then, my kingdom be at rest."

They struck the bargain there, and soon they marched into
the North;

The Saxons beat the Picts and Scots from Humber, Tweed,
and Forth;
To Hengist, son of Woden, did King Vortigern allow
Near half the shire of Lincoln, as we call the county now.

The Lindsey Portion was the land he held by such a claim;
The Lindis River—Witham now—gave Lindis-Ey its name,
Whence northward to the Humber tide, and westward to the
Trent,
And eastward to the open sea, the Saxons' province went.

Too large and wide a land, I ween, was this for men so few;
But Hengist nigh to Vortigern with crafty counsel drew,
And said, "Thy foes in Brittany I bid thee to beware,
Or let me send for Saxons more, and thy defence prepare."

Now Vortigern, an idle King, who reigned the State to mar,
Was heedless of his business, of policy and war;
Of hunting and of hawking, of feasting and of drinking,
Of gallantry and ladies gay, he rather would be thinking.

This foolish monarch gave consent as Hengist did him say,
So eighteen ships to Botolph's town did presently convey
A chosen troop of Saxon men, all clad in coats of mail,
With iron helmets and shields and spears, and swords that
would not fail.

On Lindis' bank they leap to land; proud Hengist waits his
own;

They shout for joy, now close their ranks, the brazen trumpet
blown;

The White Horse banner, waving high, delights their eager
eyes;
A clang of arms begins their march; the road far inland lies.

Part Two.

Some twenty miles from Lincoln, high, upon the middle hill,
Is Caistor, now a market town; you go there if you will.
There Hengist, Earl of Saxons, built his castle big and strong;
Measured its site with hide of ox he cut to strips of thong!

No! that's the tale of Carthage; so we scout the stale old fable.
Where Hengist, lord of Lindsey, chose to build, he sure was
able.

I doubt not that his "Thongcastle" had room enough to hold
Five hundred of the Saxon chiefs, his fellows stout and bold.

Earl Hengist, when his mansion new was ready for good
living,
Bethought him of a housewarming and dinner-party giving;
King Vortigern, then hunting near, his frequent recreation,
To come and dine and take a bed received an invitation.

The spacious hall of Hengist's home was full of pomp and
glee,

Where burly Saxons, lively Celts, were met for revelry.
Hung on the wall their weapons sharp of battle and of chase,
While all the guests on benches sat, in order due of place.

No Christian priest or chaplain said a grace at Hengist's board,
To Woden and to Freya he profane libation poured;
In trenchers vast uncovered lay the sides of roasted swine,
Roast oxen cut in quarters, meat for giants set to dine.

Huge piles of bread the master sent to all his guests aright,
Their platters heaped, they drew their knives, they ate with
stern delight,

They drank with joy, in crystal cups, the wine of finest cheer,
In mugs and horns the honey-mead, in wooden tubs the beer.

But when the fatness of the feast, and drink that heats the
blood,
Made all their hearts beat strong and fast, Lord Hengist rose
and stood:

"My Harper! strike thy tuneful strings! Let music rouse
the soul!
My Daughter comes! ROWENA brings our Royal Guest the
Bowl!"

Loud through the house of Hengist rang the harp and trump
and song;

In at the open door She came, the mailed knights among;
Down on the rushy floor She knelt before the Briton's chair,
In robe of purple velvet clad, a Lady free and fair.

Her lip was like the cherry red, her face was rosy bright,
Like summer sky her eye was blue, her hair was sunny light,
As princess or as queen She wore a golden diadem,
She bore a golden goblet set with many a precious gem.

"LIEF KING WACHS HEIL!" the Maiden cried; the ruddy
wine She quaffed.

"WACHS HEIL!" each Saxon throat exclaimed, and took its
jolly draught.

"WASS AIL?" the puzzled Britons asked, "What means this
Saxon word?"

Then Hengist rising, cup in hand, to tell its use was heard.

"King of Great Britain, Vortigern! and worthy Britons all!
The speech of my Rowena here on friendly ears should fall,
Though uttered with a foreign tongue, in syllables uncouth,
I shall interpret what she says, with voice and heart of truth.

"Dear King, thy health!" or "Grow in health!" for that's
about the sense,

The very phrase is just WAX HALE! I hope there's no
offence?

Do thou in courtesy reply, DRINK, HAIL! and drink it up,
This custom of our Saxon race attends the social cup."

"I like your jovial custom well," King Vortigern replied;
"Hengist, I love this princely maid; I ask her for my bride."

"Done!" said her father instantly. The question put and
carried,

Rowena to King Vortigern that very night was married.

Part Three.

The longest and the sweetest night will have a morn of waking,
And Vortigern was roused from sleep when early day was
breaking;

His father-in-law Hengist came, and stood beside his bed,
"Good-morrow, Royal Son! I crave the MORNING-GIFT," he
said.

"The custom of our Saxon folk allows my certain right
To ask what boon I will of you, when passed your wedding
night;

I ask the Isle of Thanet now, and all the Kentish land,
From Medway's marsh to Dover fort, to have in my command."

"Nay, by St. Alban!" said the King, "Too large a gift to
choose!"

But Queen Rowena looked at him; the fool could not refuse.
That day to Thanet Horsa rode, with men of Hengist's train,
And letters from King Vortigern, a province new to gain.

I'm sorry for King Vortigern; I pity him the more
For just a little circumstance he'd quite forgot before,
In haste to wed the Pagan maid—forgot his tie for life,
Forgot his three tall manly sons, his living Christian wife.

Of her, the lawful wife and Queen, I've nothing more to say;
She went into a nunnery, to weep if not to pray;
Of Vortimer, of Catigern, of Pasigen, are told
Brave deeds of war recorded in the chronicles of old.

The brothers three in British hearts a purpose cherished long,
They would amend their father's shame, and right their nation's
wrong;

In Troynovant Prince Vortimer was held the best of names,
And where the Exe and Severn flow, as on the banks of
Thames.

Hengist persuaded Vortigern, by flattery and guile,
To undertake another war, and conquer all the isle;
For which a larger Saxon host of bandits well assorted,
By Hengist's son and brother led, was presently imported.

The Britons wouldn't stand it now; they made a revolution,
Deposed unworthy Vortigern, reformed the Constitution;
Chose Vortimer to be their King, took weapons in their hands,
And drove the Saxons out of Kent to lie on Goodwin Sands.

The victories of Vortimer are famous yet in story,
At Crayford and at Aylesford he revived the British glory,
Smote off the head of Horsa, sank a fleet beneath the wave;
But malice of a woman brought this hero to the grave.

The poison that Rowena mixed was seething in his blood;
Spoke Vortimer to all the chiefs who weeping round him stood:
"I bid you burn my body soon, and then my ashes take,
A hollow statue like to me of bronze I bid you make;

"I bid you raise it on the cliff above our eastern shore,
"Till I fright the Saxons from this isle, their ships may come
no more."

The hero died. His spirit fled. The fickle Britons' whim
Let Vortigern return to reign, with Hengist ruling him.

Part Four.

To the beginning of the end I bring my story now;
A little longer patience have, that I may tell you how
On treacherous Rowena Queen, and Vortigern the weak,
Deservedly their fate at last did retribution wreak.

The Saxons still arriving in their thousands year by year,
The British chiefs and Vortigern began to have a fear;
They said to Hengist, "Send back half!" "Which half?"

did Hengist say,
"I know not whom you wish to keep and whom to send away."

"I'll tell you what," said Hengist then, "when May brings
summer weather,
At Amesbury, on Sarum Plain, I'll place my men together,
Where you, my British friends, shall see my harmless Saxons
stand,

And choose ye some to serve your King and some to quit your
land."

The silly Britons and their King into his trap did fall;
On May-Day next, at Amesbury, they met the Saxons all;
Nor spear nor sword the Saxon had, but hidden in their hose
The horrid knives they *seawen* called, in use to stab their foes.

Seeming unarmed, the Saxon host was orderly reviewed;
His peaceful promises with oaths Earl Hengist there renewed;
Then bade the Britons sit and dine, but to his Saxons spoke—
"Neimt ewre Seawen!" said the Earl, and out the Murder broke!

The Saxons with their *seawen* sharp, their daggers dealing
death,

Four hundred British noblemen soon laid upon the heath;
Yet Eidiol, Lord of Gloucester, with no weapon but a pole,
Killing seventy of the Saxons, saved his life and body whole.

This slaughter spared King Vortigern, for wily Hengist
meant

Rowena still should sway his mind to ev'ry bad intent;
And Vortigern dissembled first, but afterwards he fled,
And in a castle on the Wye got cover for his head.

The Saxons harried all the land, the people's goods distrained,
The churches burnt, the clergy killed, the tombs of saints
profaned;

Till from the shore of Brittany Ambrose and Uther sailing,
To set this isle of Britain free, came with a force prevailing.

Hard Hengist they defeated soon, and slew beyond the Trent,
But to the castle on the Wye for Vortigern they went;

They girt the house with bands of flame, and wrought their
fierce desire:

Rowena died with Vortigern in that avenging fire!

R. ACTON.

ASTRONOMICAL OCCURRENCES IN JANUARY, 1872.

(From the "Illustrated London Almanack.")

THE MOON in her path through the heavens will occult the
star β Scorpii, a star of the second magnitude, on the morn-
ing of the 6th, the star disappearing behind the Moon at
9h. 5m. a.m. On the morning of the 7th, from the time of
rising (4h. 18m.), she will be to the right of the planet Venus
till near noon. The Moon will be near Mercury on the 9th,
and Saturn on the morning of the 10th. Mars and the Moon
will be in close proximity during the afternoon and evening
of the 12th, and Jupiter will be very near the Moon during
the afternoon of the 24th and till the time of nearest approach
(5h. 29m. p.m.), after which the Moon will follow or be to the
left of the planet. Uranus will be near to the Moon at
3h. 55m. a.m. of the 25th, the planet being to the south, after
which the distance between the two bodies will increase, the
Moon being to the east of Uranus. Her phases or times of
change are:—

Last Quarter on the 3rd at 59 min. after 9h. in the evening.
New Moon " 10th " 58 " 2 " afternoon.
First Quarter " 17th " 2 " 0 " afternoon.
Full Moon " 25th " 14 " 5 " afternoon.

She is nearest to the Earth on the morning of the 10th, and
most distant from it at midnight of the 22nd.

MERCURY is a morning star, and rises on the 1st at 7h. 46m.
a.m., or 22m. before sunrise, which interval rapidly increases
to rather more than 1h. 30m. by the middle of the month;
after which it decreases, until, on the 31st, it is but little more
than 1h. He is in inferior conjunction with the Sun on the
morning of the 2nd; in conjunction with the Moon on the
afternoon of the 9th; stationary among the stars on the early
morning of the 13th; at his greatest westerly elongation
(24 deg. 38 min.) on the afternoon of the 24th; in conjunction
with Saturn on the evening of the 29th; and in his descend-
ing node on the evening of the 31st.

VENUS is a morning star, and rises on the 1st at 4h. 13m.,
a.m., or 3h. 55m. before sunrise; she is therefore very fa-
vourably situated for observation; but as the month ad-
vances the interval becomes gradually smaller and smaller.
By the 16th, when she rises at 4h. 49m., it has decreased to
3h. 12m., and by the last day to 2h. 25m. She is near to the
Moon on the morning of the 7th.

MARS.—This is the best time of the year to observe this
planet as an evening star, as he is visible for upwards of
2h. 30m. after sunset during the greater portion of the month.
On the 1st he sets at 6h. 47m. p.m., or 2h. 47m. after sunset,
which interval decreases to 2h. 30m. by the 19th, and to 2h.
20m. by the 31st. He is in conjunction with the Moon on the
afternoon of the 12th.

JUPITER is visible all night up to the 20th day, rising in
daylight before sunset, and setting the following morning
after sunrise; but on the 20th the setting of the planet pre-
cedes sunrise by 1m., the interval increasing to 36m. by the
31st, on which day he sets at 7h. 7m. a.m. He is in opposition
to the Sun on the afternoon of the 15th, and in conjunction
with the Moon on the evening of the 24th; and will be situated
to her right after 5h. 30m.

SATURN is a morning star from the 2nd, on which day the
Sun and this planet rise together. From this time to the
middle of May he rises after midnight and before sunrise. The
following are the times of rising during this month:—On the
6th at 7h. 54m. a.m.; on the 16th at 7h. 19m. a.m., and on the
26th at 6h. 44m. a.m., or rather more than 1h. before sunrise.
He will be in conjunction with the Sun on the morning of
the 3rd, and with the Moon at 4h. 5m. on the morning of
the 10th.

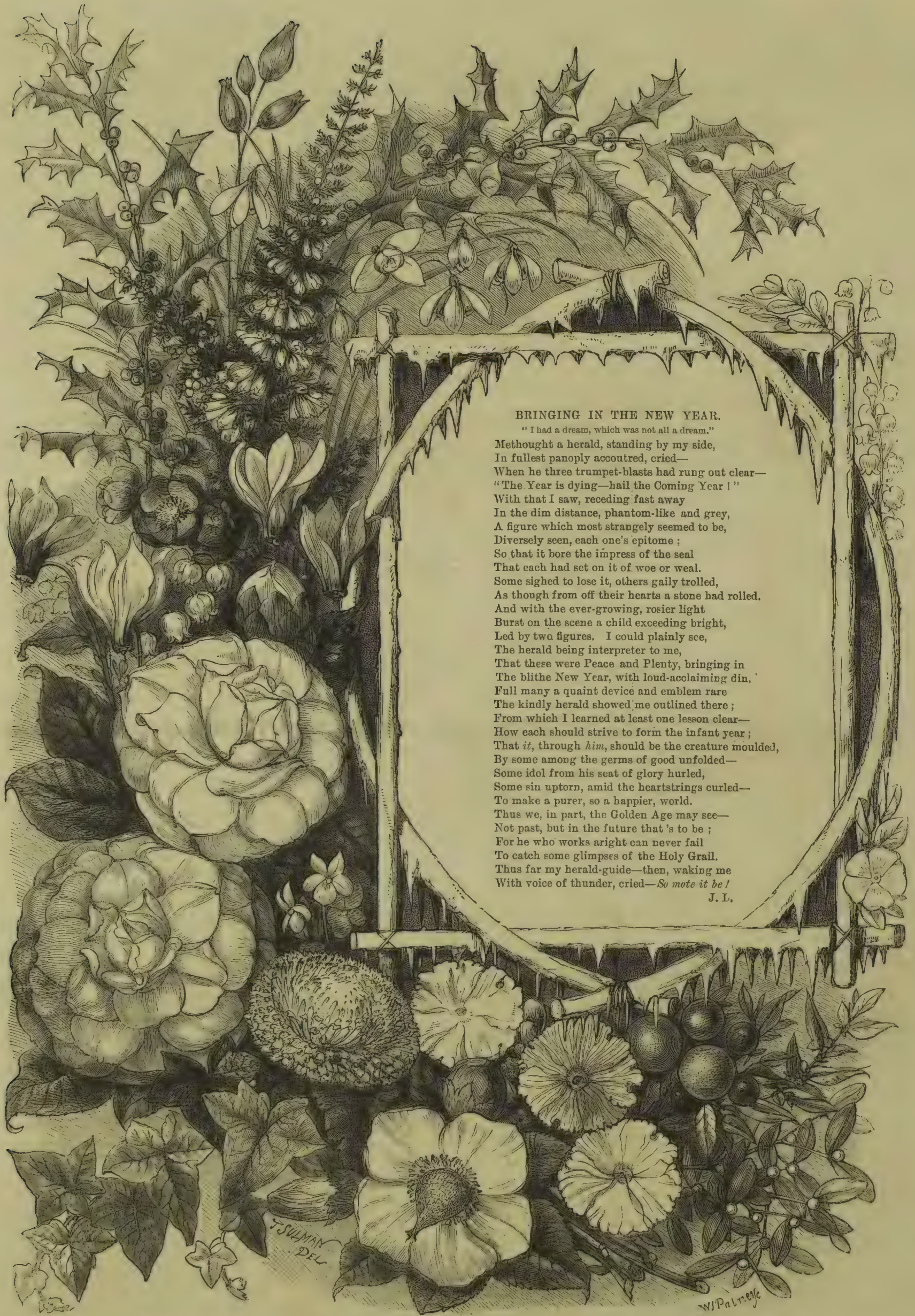
Yesterday week the troops at Aldershot, under the com-
mand of Lieutenant-General Sir James Hope Grant, G.C.B.,
went through a grand field day in honour of the visit of
Prince de Broglie and several other French gentlemen.

The *Gentleman's Annual* is a very useful as well as read-
able production. It gives in separate articles a review of the
year—music, literature, and the drama—and it includes a Par-
liamentary retrospect, a sketch of trade and commerce, joint-
stock enterprise, insurance, and sports.

The returns of the volunteer force forwarded to the War
Office this month are stated to be highly satisfactory, exhibit-
ing an increase in the numbers, and, what is of still greater
importance, a large increase in the number of "extra"
efficient. The returns of the Robin Hood Rifles show that
out of an enrolled strength of 1000 men, 997 have this year
made themselves "extra" efficient, the three non-efficient
being the honorary staff officers who cannot qualify for the
capitation grant. Among metropolitan corps there is in many
cases a large increase in strength and efficiency, several corps
returning every man as extra efficient.

Mr. Robert Barnes—several of whose munificent acts have
been recently recorded—died, on Monday, at his residence,
Fallowfield, Manchester. Mr. Barnes was a native of Man-
chester, and was born in 1800. His father was a banker at
Kendal, but his two sons, Robert and Thomas, entered into
business as cotton-spinners in Manchester, and realised con-
siderable fortunes. In 1851 Mr. Robert Barnes was elected
Mayor of Manchester; but, subsequently, he purchased an
estate in Hertfordshire, where he went to live. Losing his only
son at college, however, he returned with his daughter to Man-
chester. He spent the later years of his life in acts of benevo-
lence, and founded the Convalescent Hospital at Cheadle, a
few years since, at a cost of £40,000, and a certified industrial
school at Heaton Mersey, at a cost of £20,000. He was liberal
of his gifts to other local charities. He leaves an only daughter
to lament his loss.

At Northleigh, near Oxford, has been uncovered a Roman villa, with which few, if any, of the very perfect Roman villas in England can compare. "Such, however," says the *Builder*, "is the present condition of the remains, that unless some immediate steps be taken, the care and attention paid to their preservation when originally uncovered, in 1815-6, will have been in vain.



BRINGING IN THE NEW YEAR.

"I had a dream, which was not all a dream."

Methought a herald, standing by my side,
In fullest panoply accoutred, cried—
When he three trumpet-blasts had rung out clear—
"The Year is dying—hail the Coming Year!"
With that I saw, receding fast away
In the dim distance, phantom-like and grey,
A figure which most strangely seemed to be,
Diversely seen, each one's epitome;
So that it bore the impress of the seal
That each had set on it of woe or weal.
Some sighed to lose it, others gaily trolled,
As though from off their hearts a stone had rolled.
And with the ever-growing, rosier light
Burst on the scene a child exceeding bright,
Led by two figures. I could plainly see,
The herald being interpreter to me,
That these were Peace and Plenty, bringing in
The blithe New Year, with loud-acclaiming din.
Full many a quaint device and emblem rare
The kindly herald showed me outlined there;
From which I learned at least one lesson clear—
How each should strive to form the infant year;
That *it*, through *him*, should be the creature moulded,
By some among the germs of good unfolded—
Some idol from his seat of glory hurled,
Some sin upturned, amid the heartstrings curled—
To make a purer, so a happier, world.
Thus we, in part, the Golden Age may see—
Not past, but in the future that's to be;
For he who works aright can never fail
To catch some glimpses of the Holy Grail.
Thus far my herald-guide—then, waking me
With voice of thunder, cried—*So mote it be!*

J. L.

A NEW YEAR'S WREATH.



BRINGING IN THE NEW YEAR.

songs by Mr. G. A. Macfarren claim chief notice. In "The dear old home" we have a ballad in which this gentleman proves, as he has often done before, that he can impart interest to the simplest form and style. His song, "Dew, when night has passed away," is characterised by much elegance, with a somewhat more elaborate—yet not a difficult—accompaniment. Other agreeable contributions to song music by the same publisher are "Wedding Chimes," by the late George Linley, the composer of many successful ballads; "Strike the harp," by Mr. R. Limpus; and "Oh, trill again, sweet Nightingale," by Mr. W. F. Taylor, who might easily have avoided some dissonances between melody and accompaniment offered by passing notes of the former. The last-named gentleman has been more successful in his two pianoforte pieces, "Rosebuds" and "Ariadne;" the first a brilliant mazurka, the second a spirited tarantella. These are also published by Mr. Morley, by whom are likewise issued a very graceful "Boat Song" for the pianoforte, by Mr. W. C. Levey, and an effective transcription for the same instrument, by the same hand, of Niedermeyer's vocal romance, "Le Lac."

Messrs. Willey and Co., of Great Marlborough-street, are the publishers of "Danse Rustique," an impromptu for the pianoforte, by Mr. W. T. Taylor, who has here again shown that he can write well for the instrument, and can combine the characteristic with the graceful style—another instance of which is afforded by the same gentleman's "Twilight Reverie," a nocturno, published by Messrs. Metzler and Co.

That estimable organist and contrabassist, and sound musician, Mr. Charles Severn, has written a very spirited "Festive March," as a pianoforte duet, which is published by Messrs. Augener and Co. There is much energy of character in this, and a good contrast between the march itself and the intermediate trio.

The series of "Novello's Octavo Anthems," published by the well-known firm of Berners-street, maintains its interest. Upwards of forty numbers are now issued, each of which, at the price of fourpence, contains a complete anthem, mostly by prominent English musicians of the day, besides some pieces by Mendelssohn and Gounod.

The "Tarantella" of Mr. Horton C. Allison, published by Messrs. Duncan Davison and Co., is a vigorous piece of pianoforte music, with a strong infusion of Southern vivacity and impulse. Starting in A minor, it follows the prescribed transition to the major with an episode in the dominant of that key.

THE FARM.

The year just closing may fairly be considered one of agricultural prosperity. Following three seasons of scarcity and drought, it was ushered in with a severe winter, which was succeeded by a cold spring and a wet, short summer. Harvest was late and protracted. Although the weather was for a few weeks highly favourable, yet the want of labourers was felt generally throughout the country, and the yield of wheat, oats, barley, peas, and beans was rather below that of last year. The average prices have, however, been well sustained, and what is at the present time higher than it has been for the last three years. Green crops were abundant, and stock of all kinds unusually scarce and dear: indeed, even now, in some of the northern counties, there is a difficulty in getting turnips eaten off. The continual wet in the early part of the summer, beneficial as it was to most of the root crops, brought on disease among the potatoes, and rendered that crop very deficient.

The trials of steam-cultivators and of agricultural machinery, though very costly, were the great feature of the Royal Agricultural Society's meeting at Wolverhampton, and the award of premiums to the best cultivated farms in the districts where the society's shows are held has tended to encourage better farming, and also demonstrated in what manner the most successful husbandry is practised. The analysis of manures, &c., made by the society's professors, has also been attended with good results. Much learning has been dispensed in the various methods of applying sewage, but this seems still an unsettled question. Large cities are, however, beginning to discover that their sewage may be utilised without polluting their rivers, and this subject will become, year after year, one of greater importance. The game evil has formed the subject of frequent discussions during the year, and it is at least satisfactory to know that some concessions have been made by noblemen and landed proprietors. The increasing population of the country, the accumulated wealth, through a year of almost unprecedented commercial prosperity such as 1871 has been, will require a more abundant supply both of animal and vegetable food. Live stock has not increased in the same ratio as the population. The cattle plague of 1865-6, followed by three years of drought, immensely reduced the number, and also the condition of the cattle throughout the country, and the spread of foot-and-mouth disease this year is not likely to cause our flocks and herds to greatly multiply. Beef and mutton have ruled high, pork being lower, and, contrary to anticipations, prices have rather declined with the close of the year. Australian meats make a little progress, especially in large institutions, and the difficulties of the foreign cattle trade are at last likely to be overcome by the opening of the new Deptford market. Fancy prices for pedigree stock have been enormous. Sheep, although let and sold for 100 gs. each and upwards, have not yet equalled the palmy days of the Bakewell Club for pure Leicesters. Cattle of certain strains of blood have readily fetched their 1000 gs., and about 2250 pure-bred shorthorns have been sold by auction at an average of over 50 gs. Large numbers of cattle, sheep, and pigs have been exported to the colonies and America; and Ireland, so thoroughly adapted as it is for stock purposes, has profited by the increased prices. Death robbed us of many distinguished agriculturists and stock-breeders early in the year; and Mr. T. E. Pawlett, of Beeston, Beds, aged seventy-two, well known for his trials of various wheats, his Leicester sheep, and shorthorns, has passed away near the close of the year.

"Boxing Day" in the metropolis was observed as a strict holiday, both as to the closing of places of business and of shops. The weather, unfortunately, was adverse to the pleasure-seekers. Rain set in on Monday night and continued, with but little intermission, throughout Tuesday. The streets were in a state of flashy muddiness; omnibuses and trains were crowded, and cabs were at a premium. All the indoor places of amusement were densely crowded. At the Sydenham Palace 41,000 persons were crowded beneath its vast expanse of crystal roof, and in its manifold amusements provided were enabled to set the weather at defiance. In town the British and South Kensington Museums, the National Gallery, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, &c., were thronged. At night the theatres also reaped an unusual harvest. Their name now is "Legion," but whether the pantomimes were good or bad, grand or meagre, sparkling or dull, spectators crowded box, pit, and gallery to overflowing. In other columns of our paper will be found descriptions of these Christmas entertainments.

NEW BOOKS.

Let us travel. Let us suppose that we have been settled for some years somewhere beneath the snowy Himalaya, and that, having enjoyed certain shooting expeditions and other excursions which have made us tolerably well acquainted with Ladak, we feel an irresistible yearning to penetrate into the mysterious regions beyond—into that undiscovered country from whose bourne few travellers, as poor Schlagintweit is our witness, return; and where, as those who do return declare, the life of a man is of no more account than that of a sheep. We will press forward into Eastern Toorkistan; we will not be content to reach Yarkand, but we will go farther and see Káshgar also. But in what capacity shall we go? For many reasons in the mercantile; and, to avoid the suspicions engendered among civilised as well as barbarous people by "a chiel" who appears to be "takin' notes," we will carry nothing in the way of surveying instruments save a prismatic compass. We shall want somebody to precede us and prepare our way at Yarkand; so we will engage as "confidential agent and fore-runner" Diwán Baksh, a Mussulman and a Moonshee, who is better educated than most of his class are, and whose qualifications point him out as a very fit person for our purpose, especially as he leaves "a wife and family in the Kágra Valley dependent on his return for their future subsistence." Away, then, through all sorts of difficulties, to Ladák and on to the Kárákash river; forward, after a detention at Shahidoolla, to Yarkand; ahead, after a residence at Yarkand, to Káshgar; a long halt at Káshgar; back again to Yarkand; and from Yarkand to India. We shall have performed a most arduous and most interesting journey; we shall have had all sorts of strange adventures; we shall have seen all manner of extraordinary persons; we shall have been kept in irksome confinement; we shall have had interviews with great personages; and we shall have played at the exciting game of "Oghlak." And all this, and more, we can do quietly at home by taking up a large volume called *Visits to High Tartary, Yarkand, and Káshgar*, by Robert Shaw, British Commissioner in Ladák (John Murray). We shall, moreover, have the advantage of Mr. Shaw's maps, coloured and uncoloured illustrations, conversation, and letters. The late Sir R. I. Murchison prophesied that the volume, when it appeared, would make its mark; and it were well, if he were still with us to see the fulfilment of his prophecy. Having returned to India, we may indulge our travelling propensities by making a journey into the central highlands. And this time we go a-hunting. But we shall not only shoot antelopes, bisons, buffaloes, and tigers, but we shall learn a great many new facts about the animals we shoot, and especially about tigers. Are there many tigers more than 10 ft. long? And do many gallant sportsmen hunt the tiger on foot? We shall come to the conclusion that, as "a 10-ft. tiger will easily stretch to 13 ft. or 14 ft." (that is to say, the skin of the dead animal will), and as "the British public demands 12-ft. tigers," it is not difficult to make supply correspond with demand; and that "nine tenths of the tigers said to be shot on foot are really killed from trees or rocks, where the sportsman is quite secure." No doubt "a very few sportsmen do, for a short period of their lives, make a practice of hunting and shooting tigers really on foot; but they are seldom very successful, and sooner or later get killed, or have such narrow escapes as to cure them of such silly folly for the remainder of their days." We shall also get a great deal of information about the elephant, about many matters connected with natural history, and especially about a people called Konds. Further, we shall see the "Marble Rocks," a gorge in the Narbadá, where "a mighty river pent up into a third of its width, and for a space of two miles or more boiling along, deep and sullen, between two sheer walls of pure white marble," forms, as anyone can imagine, "a scene of rare loveliness;" but the heavenliness of the situation is a little interfered with by the existence of an indigenous colony of bees, which "in cold weather seem to be inoffensive, but from about March to July" wreak such vengeance upon disturbers or friends of disturbers that they once stung an unfortunate gentleman named Boddington, who had himself done nothing, but was in company with somebody who had done something, into the water, and then in the water, until he, who was "a practised swimmer, was drowned." It is surely, then, worth while to take up the large volume called *The Highlands of Central India*, by Captain J. Forsyth, Bengal Staff Corps (Chapman and Hall), in which, as has been hinted, there is much to be learnt about many things, and which has a map as well as coloured and uncoloured illustrations. The author, it is melancholy to relate, died at the early age of thirty-three, before his work was entirely through the press.

Joseph Beete Jukes was born Oct. 10, 1811, and died July, 29, 1869. He had the happiness and benefit of studying geology at Cambridge with the assistance of Professor Sedgwick; and he spent his life apparently in conscientious work connected with geological pursuits. He looked "as if he might have been a Roman emperor;" but, of course, he was a little too late. He, however, must have been a man of no common order; for he evidently won not only the deep affection but the unaffected respect and esteem of at least one member of his own family, as plainly appears from a thick volume entitled *Letters, &c., of J. Beete Jukes, M.A., F.R.S., F.G.S.*, edited, with connecting Memorial Notes, by his Sister (Chapman and Hall). It is difficult to make out that he did anything to deserve a public statue, unless it were when he earnestly and sensibly dissuaded a friend from publishing some poems; but his letters, one would say, are readable, indicative of excellent mental and moral qualities, and likely to give a good idea of what the writer was and did.

An educated Parsee merchant of Bombay, Mr. Ardaseer Framjee Moos, formerly superintendent of the lower school in the Elphinstone Institution, and Professor of Chemistry there, has published the first volume of an interesting book in the Goojeratee language, some portions of which are translated and printed for English readers. It relates the observations of the author, seven years ago, in company with two or three other native gentlemen of Bombay, Messrs. Cursetjee Nusservanjee Cama, Mancherjee Merwanjee Naliarwalla, and Dr. Bhau Daji, in a tour through the Deccan, and the Madras and Bengal Presidencies, returning by Gwalior and Indore. The object of these intelligent and patriotic travellers was to make themselves acquainted with the condition of different parts of India, and to see what prospects of social improvement could be obtained. They took an especial interest in the efforts to promote the education of all classes among the Hindoos. In reading their comparisons between the provision made at Calcutta and at Bombay for the instruction of girls, we are reminded of the benevolent and judicious mission since undertaken with that object by Miss Mary Carpenter, which was noticed in this Journal some time ago. The book, as printed by the Education Society of Bombay, is adorned with nearly seventy illustrations in chromolithography, executed by Messrs. Day and Son and Vincent Brooks, of London, from photographs and sketches collected by the author. It is dedicated, by special permission, to his Royal Highness Prince Alfred, as a memorial of his late visit to India.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

In the absence of any racing intelligence, for the "Bank holiday" gathering at Finchley does not call for any remark, we are compelled to fall back once more on statistics. Truly 1871 may well be known as the "Baron's year," for the £21,430 won by Baron Rothschild is nearly three times as much as any other owner has secured; while his old favourite, King Tom, is again at the head of the list of winning sires. Hannah, Favonius, and Corisande have been the Baron's trump cards, for the races won by the flying Chopette were not very valuable, and Laburnum, though firmly established as favourite for the Derby, has run three times unsuccessfully—a case for which we can recall no precedent. At a very wide interval, Mr. Lombard is second with £9928, though he is credited with three times as many races as the Baron, as, indeed, was sure to be the case when it is remembered that a race seldom takes place, especially at Newmarket, in which the "red, white, and blue" does not figure. Mr. Johnstone (£8732) and Mr. Savile (£7857) are third and fourth, the former owing his place to Bothwell's lucky Two Thousand victory, which subsequent running made quite inexplicable, and the latter to the hard-working Cremorne. Mr. Merry (£7533) has had no wonderful two-year-old to help him this season, and, but for King of the Forest's success in the Prince of Wales's Stakes, would have sadly "fallen from his high estate." Then succeed Lord Anglesey (£6899), Mr. Graham (£6716)—a great falling off from the Regalia and Formosa days—and Mr. Bowes (£5739). No other owner has reached £5000, and the Turf reformers, Sir Joseph Hawley (£3810) and Mr. Chaplin (£1895), must sigh for another Blue Gown and Hermit; while Colonel Pearson (£310) has not found a second Achievement to carry his "chevrons."

In the sire list King Tom's bonny bay daughter, Hannah, has been chiefly instrumental in placing him first, with £17,971. Parmesan (£15,090) runs him very close, and Favonius and Cremorne have proved rare representatives of the handsome little Sweetmeat. Thanks to Prince Charlie (relative to whom Joseph Dawson must often indulge in a Hamlet-like soliloquy—"To roar or not to roar, that is the question," &c.), Blair Athol (£10,850) comes third, just beating his deceased sire, Stockwell (£10,142); and, by a curious coincidence, they can both boast of twenty-one winners. Trumpeter (£7944) is next, Queen's Messenger and Sir Amyas being a couple of youngsters that do him great credit; and Rataplan (£7764), who has sixteen winners of forty-two races, is succeeded by Oxford (£7393), who, with such a son as Sterling, undoubtedly the best three-year-old of the year, and perhaps the best "miler" ever seen on the turf, ought to have occupied a much higher position. The remaining sires whose stock have won £5000 are Scottish Chief (£6634), Thunderbolt (£6391), St. Albans (£6017), Lord Clifden (£5685), who has twenty-six winners, five more than any other sire can boast of, and Dundee (£5179). Lambton (£4993), however, only just escapes getting into this list. Newminster, Thormanby, Macaroni, and Beadsman all show a great falling off from the result of former years; Saunterer has also done badly; and Gladiateur has yet to prove himself a success at the stud. Voltigeur has sunk to £805; but the stock of Vedette, who was sold the other day for 42 gs., have made £1447, so that he, surely, cannot be a dear purchase.

The Bothal Club had two capital days' coursing at the end of last week, the Bentinck Stakes bringing out some well-known greyhounds. Waywarden appears to have quite lost his form of last year, and was put out in the first round—a fate which also befel Captain Lloyd-Lindsay, who had a very unlucky trial with Wansbeck Maid; and the stake eventually fell to Anson, by Marquis—Fly, who has the honour of being the first conqueror of Britain Yet. Coursing men will all sympathise with Lord Lurgan in the loss he has sustained by the death of Master M'Grath, which took place on Sunday last. There was a natural suspicion of foul play, but a post-mortem examination has proved that death arose from natural causes. Master M'Grath was undoubtedly the most wonderful greyhound that was ever slipped, and only once suffered defeat—by Lady Lyons, in the first round of the Waterloo Cup in 1870. He first appeared in public at the Lurgan Meeting, in 1867, when he won the Visitors' Cup; and followed this up by dividing a stake at the Creagh Club Meeting, in the following week, with a kennel companion. Then came his first Waterloo Cup triumph, and in the autumn of the same year he divided the Brownlow Cup. In 1869 he again secured the Waterloo Cup; but, as we have already mentioned, was beaten for the same trophy in 1870. In the October of that year, however, he appeared in as good form as ever at the Lurgan Meeting, and won the Brownlow Cup; while his third Waterloo triumph must be fresh in the recollection of all. Master M'Grath was a small dog, not a particularly close worker, but possessing a terrific turn of speed and the most wonderful killing powers. He was to have run once more for the Waterloo Cup, and his place will probably be taken by Lady Lonsdale.

"THE ANNIVERSARY."

This picture reminds one of the custom, which prevailed most generally in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, of adding to the tombs of the leading members of noble families smaller figures of the mourning survivors. These occur about the pedestal and plinth of the altar-tombs which bear the recumbent effigies of the departed, sometimes in relief or incised on the pedestal itself, and sometimes in full relief at its base; but always the figures are represented kneeling in a devotional attitude, and frequently it is quaintly pathetic to see a large family disposed one behind the other in regularly diminishing sizes, according to their respective ages. In the picture before us, however, instead of images of the bereaved in stone, or wood, or metal, we have the true living mourners—a young boy-knight, arrived at an age when he must soon enter actively on the duties of his station and most needs a father's guidance, with his little sister, to whom none can supply the place of a mother, but whom he must tend and protect as best he may for many long years to come. They are orphans it is evident, for two mortuary memorials lie on the cold altar-tomb. The anniversary they celebrate with purest tears and prayers of youth and childhood is that of the death of a loved parent, the last that was left to them we may suppose. To perform the sacred rites of sorrowing love they have sought the family sanctuary, the secluded chapel, where repose the ashes of their ancestors. Many of us have felt a grief like theirs, and few who have had that bitter experience will fail to find that the painter's representation touches a sympathetic chord of chastening sorrow. The costumes are Spanish, and indicate the nationality of the painter, F. Huard.

Mr. Edwin Woodward, of King's Lynn, requests us to state that his late partner and father-in-law, Mr. S. M. Kendall, was appointed surgeon to the Prince and Princess of Wales in April, 1863, and continued to hold that post till the death of Mr. Kendall, on Aug. 15, 1871; and that from that period until the end of September Mr. Woodward held the post.



"THE ANNIVERSARY," BY P. HUARD.
IN THE FRENCH GALLERY.



THE PANTOMIMES: PREPARING FOR THE TRANSFORMATION SCENE.

THE PANTOMIMES.

PREPARING FOR THE TRANSFORMATION SCENE.

All that relates at this season of the year to the theatres, whether inside or outside, has especial interest for holiday readers, particularly those things which relate to the inside. Our Artist has justly thought that the immense preparations necessary at Christmas for the successful production of a pantomime would excite curiosity. People in general are apt to think that a pantomime is a slight affair, and so, perhaps, it is to the playgoer public; but to the manager and player it is an onerous undertaking. It is, in fact, the most important concern of the year. The arrangements for the grand effects and groupings of the Transformation are of the most complex description. The mechanical results are matters of serious effort, and require the most persistent attention. The reader will gain some notion of the anxiety and bustle behind the scenes on such occasions. The green-room is a place of confusion and perplexity. Here, one of the fairies of the transformation scene already alluded to is in haste to have her wings adjusted to her shoulders, others having been already supplied with their feathers; and some are engaged in the accidents connected with their various appearances. Here, too, the cupids await their advent, and masks are suited to the emblematic characters with which a good harlequinade usually abounds. We may note, too, "the old, familiar faces" of clown, harlequin, pantaloon, and columbine, and read in them the indications of coming trials and uncertain triumphs. After all, a picture of the kind can only be suggestive, and what in it we fail to see we may readily imagine. It is but a part of the scene; in other places of the apartment a large amount of bustle also abounds.

LAW AND POLICE.

The death of Sir J. E. G. Bayley, for many years one of the Judges of the Courts of Queen's Bench and of the Exchequer, is announced.

Mr. Quain, Q.C., has accepted the appointment to the vacant Judgeship of the Court of Queen's Bench.

An application was made to Baron Bramwell, at Judges' Chambers, last Saturday, in the case of a girl named Turner, nearly twelve years old, now an inmate of a refuge at Ealing. Her father, a Protestant, was dead; but the child had been baptised at a Roman Catholic Church, and her mother, now seriously ill in the infirmary of Marylebone Workhouse, had expressed a strong desire that her daughter should be sent to a Roman Catholic school, where she could be brought up in the faith of her surviving parent. The Judge, after questioning the girl, said that, as there was no father alive and no guardian, he had to consult the wishes of the child, as the mother's rights might be considered nil. He declared that it would be a cruel act to remove the subject of the application from the care of those with whom she was at present, and therefore declined to make the order asked for.

In the Court of Session, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, an action came up for rehearing, in which Mrs. Asher, a widow lady, residing in Glasgow, sued Mr. John Rennie, a retired Glasgow merchant, for breach of promise of marriage. At the first trial, which took place at the beginning of November, the jury, by a majority of one, found for the defendant, and that verdict was overturned as being contrary to evidence. At the close of the rehearing of the case, on Tuesday, the jury unanimously found for the plaintiff, and gave £750 in name of damages.

At the police courts on Tuesday many of the charges were such as are heard at this season. At Westminster, however, Mr. McCullagh Torrens, M.P., found himself compelled to prosecute his footman and a brother of his coachman for having destroyed about £25 worth of china and glass in his house. The defendants, with another man, had been "enjoying themselves" all night in the housekeeper's room and at eight o'clock in the morning the former were found by the cook lying on the floor drunk and asleep. The fragments of broken dessert and breakfast services were scattered about in all directions. The work of destruction had apparently been carried out by means of a hammer. A remand was granted.

Asher Barnard, formerly a tradesman carrying on business in Exeter, was, yesterday week, committed for trial from the Mansion House, on a charge of having, within four months of his bankruptcy, concealed goods, principally jewellery and diamonds, worth upwards of £5000, with intent to defraud.

Colin James Mackay, an iron merchant, of Liverpool, was, on Thursday week, committed for trial on a charge of forgery, bail being refused. On the previous day Mackay obtained, at the Liverpool Assizes, £500 damages from the London and North-Western Railway as compensation for injuries in a collision, near Wolverhampton, last August.

A shocking crime was perpetrated on Tuesday morning at Islington. At about half-past nine a man named William Young, who had himself just arisen, obtained a life-preserver and inflicted a murderous blow on the head of his wife, who was still in bed. Fortunately she was not stunned, and struggled with her assailant so as to prevent his repeating the blow, until she was rescued by lodgers in the house. Young then locked the room door, and blew out his brains with a pistol.

Jealousy is said to have been the cause of this dreadful crime. The woman's injuries are not likely to prove fatal.

The sentence of death on the two poachers, John Webster and John Kirk, for the murder of William Hill, on Aug. 11, has been commuted to penal servitude for life.

ROYAL INSTITUTION LECTURES.

RIVERS, CLOUDS, RAINS, AND VAPOUR.

Professor Tyndall gave the first of a course of six lectures (adapted to an educated juvenile auditory) on Ice, Water, Vapour, and Air, on Thursday last, Dec. 28. In his opening remarks he stated that he had been led to adopt this subject when studying the glaciers of the Alps last summer, and that he proposed to act as a guide to his younger hearers in their future personal examination of the phenomena of glaciers. He then referred to a large map of the Valley of the Thames, and, after tracing the river up to its source in the Cotswold Hills, he explained how all great rivers are formed by tributaries, which shrink successively to brooks and streamlets, and finally to threads of water; all these being fed by rain, which is merely the condensed vapour of the atmosphere. In illustration of these remarks the Professor exhibited, as an artificial cloud, the vapour of a small boiler, condensed by contact with the air, and he reminded his hearers of the cloud-banner rising from the funnel of a running locomotive, which gradually becomes less dense as it is being converted into invisible vapour, this taking place faster in dry than in humid weather. He then demonstrated the existence of this vapour in the lecture-room by congealing it into hoar frost by exposure to surfaces chilled by a freezing mixture; and he said that, as heat is necessary to produce the cloud in the case of the locomotive, so heat is necessary to form the clouds of our atmosphere; and this heat is ultimately obtained from the sun. Proceeding onward, after exhibiting a magnificent spectrum from his artificial sun, the electric lamp, the Professor proved that the visible rays have no heating power, but that this is possessed by the invisible rays beyond the red end of the spectrum, which he exemplified by the ignition of gun-cotton, paper, a cigar, zinc, and other objects, when placed in the focus of these dark rays, and by other conclusive experiments, including the boiling of water.

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OLIVE OIL'S WELLINGTON KNIFE POLISH. Old knives cleaned with this preparation bear a brilliancy of polish equal to new cutlery. Can be used with any kind of knife-board or knife-cleaning machine. Packages, 3d. each; and Tins, 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. each. Wholesale, Oakley and Sons, Wellington Emery and Black-Lead Mills, Blackfriars, London.

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GREENFIELD STARCH. SEE THAT YOU GET IT, as inferior kinds are often substituted for the sake of extra profit.

OLD AGE or ACCIDENT, not Disease, should and our Days.—Pamphlet on Use of the Portable Turkish Bath, for curing Diseases, four stamps, by C. HUNTER, of Calcutta. Rheumatism, Gout, &c. Price, with flannel cloak, 2s. Sole Agent, T. Hawley, 4, Blenheim-street, Bond-street, W. Vide Leader in "Daily Telegraph," Feb. 7, 1870.

HOOPING-COUGH.—ROCHE'S HERBAL EMBROCATION. The celebrated Effectual Cure without internal medicine. Sole Wholesale Agent, EDWARDS, 39, Old-change, London. Sold retail by all Chemists. Price 4s. per bottle.

NEURALINE, the Instant Cure for Neuralgia, Tic Douloureux, Sciatica, Toothache, Rheumatism, Gout, Rheumatic Gout, and all Nerve Pains. LEATH and ROSS, Homoeopathic Chemists, 5, St. Paul's-churchyard; 9, Vere-street, W. Sold by all Chemists. In Bottles, 1s. 1d. and 2s. 6d.

KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES are daily recommended for Coughs, Colds, Asthma, &c., by the faculty. Testimonials from the most eminent may be seen. Sold in Boxes, 1s. 1d., and Tins, 2s. 6d. each, by all Druggists, &c.; and wholesale, 79, St. Paul's-churchyard.

MOLLER'S COUGH LOZENGES (Knight of the Orders of Vasa and St. Olaf) COD-LIVER OIL, extracted from selected livers, WITHOUT ANY REFINEMENT WHATSOEVER, retaining the natural colour, delicacy of taste, and superior digestibility of the oil in the living fish. Manufactured at Stamsund, Galtvåg, and Kabelvaag, Lofoten Islands, Norway.

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